

## Rally for abortion rights Nov. 12!

On November 12 the reflecting pool facing the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., will be surrounded by tens of thousands of abortion rights supporters from every corner of the country, and Canada. They will gather for the Mobilization for Women's Lives, called by the National Organization for Women.

These fighters will be demanding preservation of women's constitutional right to

### EDITORIAL

safe, legal abortion and birth control; restoration of government funding for abortion and elimination of other restrictions; and an end to attacks aimed at limiting — or eliminating — these rights.

A few months ago, some might have predicted such a demonstration would find abortion rights supporters all but beaten. Following the July 3 U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding Missouri's restrictive antiabortion law, abortion foes projected an

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## Miami Eastern strikers form 'human billboard'

BY PETE SEIDMAN

MIAMI — More than 1,500 striking Eastern Airlines workers and supporters turned out in the early evening of October 23 to line the entire span of the George Powell Bridge on the Rickenbacker Causeway. It was the largest strike support action called by the International Association of Machinists here since the walkout at Eastern began last March.

The unionists formed a "human billboard" on the causeway to urge travel agents attending the national convention of the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) not to book flights on the struck airline. When the action occurred, the travel agents were being bused across the bridge to a dinner and Beach Boys concert hosted by Eastern on Key Biscayne, a wealthy community across Biscayne Bay from Miami.

Strike supporters had planned to light up the causeway with flashlights, but were prevented by the cops.

The line of Eastern Machinists union members, pilots, and flight attendants was swelled by other unionists, including workers from other airlines and the airport, postal workers, teachers, government workers, and a busload of Eastern IAM strikers from Ft. Lauderdale's International Airport. In addition, 150 carpenters attending a national con-



Militant/Halket Allen

1,500 Miami Eastern strikers, supporters lined causeway to Key Biscayne October 23 in an appeal to travel agents who were in town for convention.

ference in Miami Beach suspended their meeting to participate.

From the moment they landed in Miami, the 6,000 travel agents attending the ASTA

convention were met by roving teams of strikers, all wearing red and white "Stop Lorenzo" T-shirts. Hundreds of strikers teamed up to meet every arriving domestic flight from October 20 to 22. A bus shuttled between Local 702's union hall and the airport every two hours.

At the "human billboard," signs that read, "Welcome ASTA. Bankruptcy is Lorenzo's ticket. Don't book Eastern or Continental" stretched down the causeway. Below, several boats with large "Stop Lorenzo" signs on their sails blasted away on their air horns during the evening.

Striker Herbert Hannah is a ramp worker

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## Protests shake E. German government

BY GREG McCARTAN

Two days following the most massive political march seen in decades in East Germany, head-of-state Erich Honecker resigned.

Honecker, 77, was replaced with Egon Krenz by the German Democratic Republic's Communist Party Central Committee. Krenz, at age 52, is the youngest member of the party's Political Bureau.

The protest of 100,000 on October 16 in the city of Leipzig overshadowed a demonstration a week earlier of 50,000. "We want new leaders!" and "We want reforms!" were popular chants at the march.

Protesters carried signs calling for greater freedom of the press, unrestricted travel, and free elections.

### Protests follow exodus

The size of the protests grew rapidly following the mass departure to West Germany of more than 23,000 East Germans during September and early October.

The government responded to the wave of emigration by restricting travel outside the country to those with approved visas.

The exodus is a reflection of the stagnation of the East German economy, which is projected to grow only 1 percent in 1989. Many who left are young skilled workers seeking a higher standard of living in West Germany.

The ferment inside the country propelled small opposition groups, like the New Forum, to the forefront of the protests. These groups propose government implementation of economic and political measures similar to perestroika- and glasnost-type policies adopted in some other Eastern European countries and the Soviet Union.

The government under Honecker resisted such policies despite pressure from the Soviet government. The West German government, seeking greater economic integration and political ties between the two parts of Germany, has also pressed East Germans to follow such a course.

In addition to ordering the visa restrictions on travel, the government had broken up

several protests with water cannons and clubs. New Forum and other groups were denied legal status. Since October 9, however, demonstrations have been allowed to proceed without such interference.

New Forum leader Bärbel Bohley told the

media, "We want to stay, but real dialogue had to be institutionalized."

The group's September manifesto says it opposes reunification with West Germany, does not want a return to capitalist rule, and

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## Coal miners' camp, center of strike activities

BY RONI McCANN

CARTERTON, Va. — Even though this town doesn't usually appear on the map, it is gaining on the list of the most popular places to visit in southwestern Virginia. This is where Camp Solidarity is located — an organizing center for striking Pittston miners and pole for unionists and other strike supporters who travel to the camp from near and far in increasing numbers.

The camp is surrounded by coal mines, coal processing plants, and railroads. This is the bedrock of the coal division of Pittston Co. and the center of the six-month battle between the company and the United Mine Workers of America.

North of the camp, in Logan County, West Virginia, sit two more struck Pittston Coal Group mines. Northeast of those, near Lookout, is another. West of the camp, in Kentucky, is Pittston's Eastern Coal Co., also struck. Altogether some 1,900 Pittston miners are on strike.

### Camp being readied for winter

The 10-acre camp sits at the base of surrounding hills. The main building has been turned into a kitchen and eating area. Strikers have built showers and brought in portable toilets. Presently, they are constructing bunkhouses with heat for the winter. Campers and tents line the outside of the grounds, with a welcoming camper near the entrance. Everyone staying at Camp Solidarity is fed. Strikers say if you go hungry there, it's your own fault.

Ernie Mailhot, on strike at Eastern Airlines at New York's La Guardia airport, along with airline workers from Trans World Airlines

and I, drove through the night to visit Camp Solidarity on October 17. Mailhot is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1018.

We arrived a few hours before dinner and the evening strike support rally. Since we had some time we decided to visit the picket line

at Pittston's Moss No. 3 processing plant. Moss No. 3 was the site of an 80-hour occupation in mid-September by 98 striking Pittston miners and one miner.

Pittston strikers Jerry Willis and Jerry Hearl, each of them with some 15 years in

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## An appeal to 'Militant' readers

Regular readers of the *Militant* notice our support for the projects of Pathfinder Press. Every week we report aspects of Pathfinder's current publishing and promotion program. And we've begun a column called "Pathfinder Around the World," which we plan to carry every two weeks.

The reason is simple. In the United States and many other countries, Pathfinder is the sole publisher that provides revolutionary, working-class literature so vital to unionists and activists today.

The coming months will be no exception. New books to roll off the press include titles on Cuba's rectification process and the trials of Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa and José Abrantes; the record of the Second Congress of the Communist International in 1920; and French-language editions of *Socialism and Man* by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro, and the speeches of Thomas Sankara.

Promotion plans include making Pathfinder titles available at a November conference on the Cuban revolution in

Halifax, Canada, and at the Manila, Philippines, international bookfair early next year. Representatives will also hit the road in the United States, Canada, Britain, and Western Europe to expand sales to commercial bookstores and to libraries.

Pathfinder is not a money-making operation. It depends on the financial contributions of workers and activists from around the world who have come to treasure Pathfinder's contribution to the forward march of humanity.

A \$150,000 fund recently launched will place Pathfinder's plans on solid foundations. The fund's deadline is December 1, but a special effort is being made to collect \$100,000 by November 1. *Militant* subscribers will soon receive an appeal from Steve Clark, Pathfinder's director.

With opportunities outpacing resources, cash flow for the publishing house is tight. We encourage everyone to respond to the appeal early and generously. For more information see page 4.



# How media reports scapegoated USAir pilot

BY HARRY RING

It was a small Associated Press dispatch buried on an inside page of the October 7 *Washington Post*. If the item appeared in the major New York dailies, we missed it, even on a second try.

It was about Michael Martin, captain of the USAir jet that crashed into the East River on takeoff from La Guardia Airport.

The AP dispatch reported the finding of a New York grand jury that probed the September 20 crash in which two people died and others were injured.

At the time, the accident was featured in front-page scare headlines:

"Pilots in jet crash at La Guardia are sought by U.S. investigators — Officials say captain left scene after accident" (*New York Times*).

"Pilot, copilot duck investigators" (*New York Newsday*).

Then, two weeks later, the quiet little AP story reported:

"Interviews with 25 witnesses disproved allegations that the pilot, Capt. Michael W. Martin, behaved strangely and then disappeared after the jet skidded into the water, District Attorney John Santucci said.

"We found that he did not leave the airport immediately," Santucci said. "He stayed at the airport lounge for a period of time," and then went to a hospital for treatment."

Earlier, it was established that from the outset Martin had remained in contact with the airline. After the hospital visit, and a night's sleep, he arranged a meeting with federal investigators. The meeting was held about 36 hours after the crash.

The contrast between the initial, baseless allegations by officials and the media and that little AP story was consistent with the way the government and the big-business media handle air crashes and similar major accidents.

## Well-tested formula

The formula is a simple one: If it's at all possible, blame the crew. It's worth looking back at how they went about doing this with the USAir crash.

Before the plane had been fished out of the water, federal investigators — invariably unnamed — were popping off with one speculation and allegation after the other. Their rumor-mongering provided juicy copy for the press. Allegations were headlined one day, with modifications or grudging retractions buried in subsequent accounts.

A sample: "USAir Flight 5050 crashed after its unseasoned copilot pushed a wrong button on the control panel, setting off confusion in the cockpit and a desperate attempt to safely abort the takeoff, investigators said." (*Newsday*, September 13.)

Two days later — on an inside page — the paper quietly reported: "Investigators also discounted reports that the copilot caused the accident by inadvertently pushing a button that shut off the automatic throttle."

Another sample.

"Local officials said they were looking into reports that the copilot of the plane told police shortly after the crash that the pilot had been 'mumbling' and 'acting irrationally' just before the takeoff." (*Times*, September 22.)

The next day, the *Times* advised that there were "growing indications" that the reports of the pilot's bizarre behavior had been "erroneous or exaggerated."

Further, the *Times* conceded, passengers and crew members on Flight 5050 testified to "an apparently clear-headed" captain who "seemed in control of himself and the situation."

Indeed, passengers testified that Martin helped many of them to safety and crew members said he was the last one to leave the partially submerged, precariously perched broken plane.

## Manager's testimony

A similar facet of the incident was given short shrift by the media. This was pointed to in a little-noticed statement by the general manager of the airport, Tim Pierce.

When the takeoff began, the plane appar-

ently veered sharply to the left. But, with the decision to abort the flight, Martin and copilot Constantine Kleissas succeeded in getting it back on the center of the runway.

Because they did, Pierce explained, the plane lodged on an offshore trestle that continues beyond the runway. If it hadn't landed on the trestle, the entire plane would have been submerged in some 15 feet of water.

Crew members are scapegoated in air accidents to cover up for the companies that make the planes and those that operate them — and the federal regulators who are in bed with their managements.

For instance, little has been said about possible defects in the plane that may have been responsible for the crash.

One question that comes to mind is if Martin was unable to abort the flight because the brakes didn't work.

Last August *Newsday* disclosed that the Federal Aviation Administration requires testing only on new brakes — not on worn ones. The paper also reported that the FAA and the aviation industry grossly overestimate the useful life of aircraft brake components.

A year ago May, an American Airlines pilot tried to abort a DC-10 during takeoff from the Dallas-Fort Worth airport.

Eight of the plane's 10 brakes failed.

After that episode, the FAA ran tests on DC-10 brakes to determine how much wear they could take and still stop a plane in all situations.

The tests showed that standards for DC-10 braking systems were less than half of what's needed in an emergency situation.

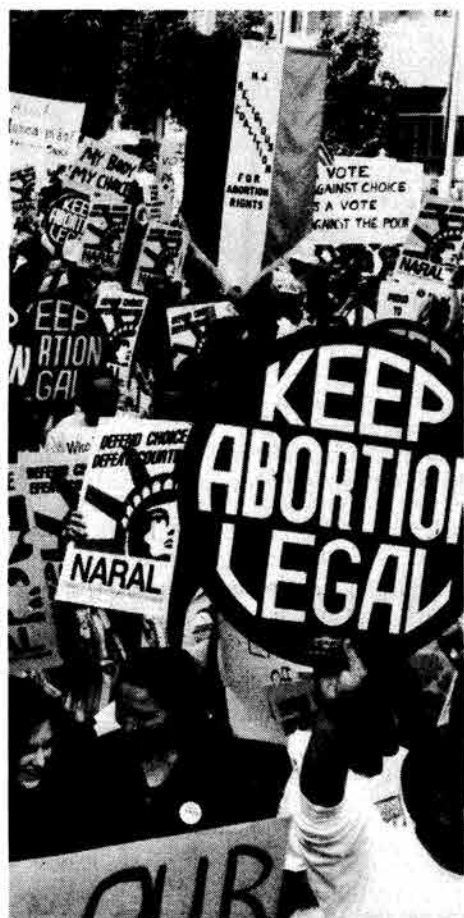
Industry engineers and government experts generally agree that inadequate brake standards apply for all makes of planes, not just the DC-10s.

After the Dallas-Fort Worth accident, the FAA said it intended to issue new standards for all aircraft "in the near future." That was 17 months ago. They didn't mention guidelines for testing worn brakes, as some government safety board members favor.

So far this year, there have been 10 fatal crashes of U.S. commercial jets. The year's toll now stands at 275.

Meanwhile, we're subjected to a hoax about a pilot who "disappeared."

## 5,000 at New Jersey prochoice march



Militant/Scott Breen  
Students, unionists, women's rights activists from throughout New Jersey turned out for October 15 march in Trenton.

BY RACHEL KNAPIK

TRENTON, N. J. — Nearly 5,000 marchers rallied here in front of the New Jersey state capitol for a woman's right to choose abortion. The October 15 action gathered steam for the national march on Washington, D.C., November 12, called by the National Organization for Women.

Kate Michelman, head of the National Abortion Rights Action League, pointed to the vote two days earlier by the U.S. House of Representatives to restore Medicaid funding for abortions in cases of rape or incest. "They didn't vote because they saw the light. They heard your voices; that's why they changed that vote," she said.

Thirty-five organizations, including women's, students', and labor organizations, formed the Choice-NJ coalition that called the protest.

Seventeen counterdemonstrators were met by prochoice chants of "What do we want? Choice! When do we want it? Forever!" and "Not the church, not the state, women must decide their fate."

People who are for abortion rights outnumber the opposition "in the streets and in the court of public opinion" said former president of the National Organization for Women Eleanor Smeal. She said women should demand not only safe and legal abortions, but better services from the government and pharmaceutical companies.

Students throughout the state organized for the march on their campuses, building local actions of hundreds. At Rutgers University

in New Brunswick 400 rallied two weeks earlier. At Princeton 400 signed for Princeton Prochoice, with 80 students attending the group's first meeting. A busload from the university came to the October 15 march.

The Industrial Union Council of New Jersey, AFL-CIO got out the word about the march at a table at its convention the week before. The Transportation Workers Union, on strike against Eastern Airlines, advertised the rally on its strike information tape in the weeks leading up to the action.

Planned Parenthood of New Jersey sent buses from 20 counties across the state.

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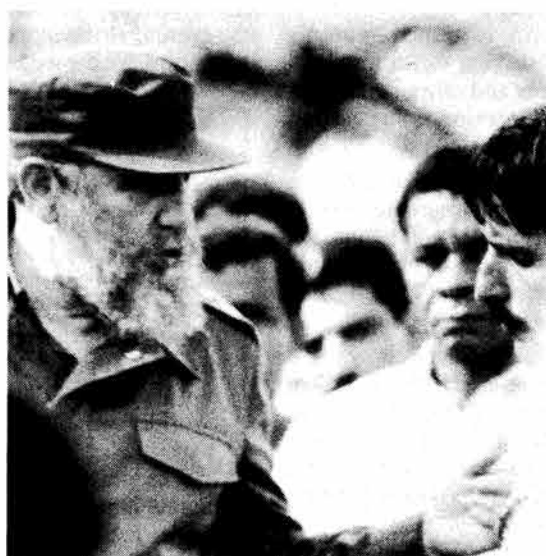
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Portraits of E.D. Nixon and Flora Tristan

Militant/Selva Nebbia

# New faces go up on Pathfinder Building

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — As you look at the faces painted on the Pathfinder mural, some are readily recognizable. Many, on the other hand, are the faces of working-class heroes who played leading roles in important struggles, but are not so well known.

Two such figures are E.D. Nixon and Flora Tristan.

A Black railroad worker, Nixon organized the historic Montgomery bus boycott that began in December 1955 and marked the beginning of the massive civil rights movement that overthrew the system of legal Jim Crow segregation.

Long before the boycott, Nixon was a leading fighter for civil rights and a union organizer. A member of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, he was president of the Montgomery chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from 1947 until 1951. Nixon then served a year as Alabama director of the NAACP. In 1954 he was the first Black to run for public office in Montgomery. The following year he organized the Montgomery Improvement Association to protest the treatment of Blacks on city buses.

## Rosa Parks

The Montgomery boycott was sparked by a Black woman's arrest for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. That woman was Rosa Parks. She had been Nixon's secretary in the NAACP, and he was the first person Parks contacted from jail.

Nixon paid Parks' bail and, sensing that the time was ripe, began to call many in the Black community to take up the fight to desegregate city buses. One of the people he called was Martin Luther King, Jr.

"It must be said that the Rev. Martin Luther King may never have been given the Nobel Peace Award if it were not for the fact that Brother Nixon induced Rev. King to take the leadership of the Montgomery Improvement Association, which ultimately was successful in abolishing discrimination in bus transportation," read an article in the *Black Worker*, the paper of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, on the occasion of Nixon's retirement in 1964.

In a March 20, 1987, *Militant* article written shortly after Nixon's death, Fred Halstead, who had met Nixon while covering the civil rights struggle for the *Militant*, wrote:

"The Montgomery bus boycott was the first of the big mass actions of the civil rights movement. There were many others over the next 10 years before the Jim Crow system was broken in the South, but there was never one that was better organized. That was mainly due to E.D. Nixon, although he generally stayed in the background and never did become famous the way Parks and King did."

Nixon died on Feb. 25, 1987, at the age of 87. Fred Auger's portrait of him on the mural is near the portrait of King by Cliff Joseph.

Another fighter whose portrait is on the six-story wall is Flora Tristan.

Born in Paris in 1803, the daughter of a Peruvian aristocrat who died and left his family penniless, Tristan was one of the early French socialists and feminists.

Tristan wrote and spoke on women's oppression and on the conditions facing the working class in industrial England and France of the early 1800s. In her book *London Journal 1840*, she described the condition of the working class and the oppression of women in England. "The life of the English worker, his wife and children are at the mercy of the manufacturer," Tristan wrote. "Should the price of calico or any other product drop, immediately those affected by the drop, spinner, cutler, potter, etc., lower wages in concert, without any thought as to whether the new wages they have decided upon are sufficient to feed the worker; they also increase the working hour."

## 'A social revolution necessary'

Tristan described seeing a 500-horsepower steam engine: "Upon recovering from your stupefaction and your terror, you look around for man; he almost escapes notice, reduced to the size of an ant by the dimensions of all that surrounds him. . . .

"If at first I felt humiliation at seeing man thus annihilated," she wrote, "working as if he were a machine himself, I soon realized the enormous improvement which, one day, would result from these scientific discoveries: brute force would be eliminated, physical labour would be performed in less time, and man would have more leisure to cultivate his mind."

"But for these advantages to materialize," she wrote, "a social revolution is necessary."

In her *London Journal* Tristan exposed the "abject servitude" women were condemned to in England. "Although it has been fashionable for a long time to praise this country for its freedom," she stated, "it is the home of the most dreadful tyranny, and woman is subjected by prejudice and by law to the most revolting inequalities."

In 1843 Tristan published *The Workers' Union*, calling for a worldwide workers' international. She died the following year at the age of 41. Four years later, on the anniversary of her death, 10,000 workers participated in the unveiling of a memorial to her.

The portrait of Flora Tristan is by Patricia Sotorello. Sotorello is from Argentina and learned of the mural in Chicago, where she currently lives.

## Funds raised for Pathfinder mural at Bay Area meetings

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

SAN FRANCISCO — The Pathfinder mural is "the most outspoken social art work ever done in this country," mural expert Alan Barnett told a gathering here October 8. Calling the mural "a radical wall of fame," Barnett said it was "a tribute to the American people" that this work exists "in public, on an outside wall."

The meeting held in the Eye Gallery was the culmination of a Bay Area tour by Pathfinder mural fund director Mark Severs. In addition to Severs and Barnett, speakers at the event included Jim Prigoff, author of *Spraycan Art*, and Susan Cervantes, founder and director of a San Francisco muralist organization called Precita Eyes.

Prigoff explained that the Pathfinder mural drew on traditions of the great Mexican muralists in its monumental size and treatment of social issues, while the involvement of so many different artists made the project something that "hasn't ever happened this way before."

Meetings for the Pathfinder Mural Project were also held at the San Francisco Art Institute, Stanford University, and at Precita Eyes. A total of \$1,050 was contributed to the mural project in the course of Severs' tour.

## Meeting in Canada will discuss Cuban revolution

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcón will give the welcoming address at the "Thirty Years of the Cuban Revolution" conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on November 1.

The gathering, sponsored by the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, will take place November 1-4 and is expected to attract several hundred people. It will include several plenary sessions, as well as numerous other panel presentations, by participants with a wide range of views. Richard Gorham, permanent observer of Canada before the Organization of American States, will also speak at the opening of the conference.

"A wide ranging scholarly and social program is planned," explains the conference brochure. "The organization of the conference provides for a broad analysis and consideration of the major areas of Cuban policy and development, as well as for more narrowly focused attention to particular aspects

of the Cuban experience."

The panels will take up a broad range of subjects. They include "Che Guevara's Thought in Contemporary Cuba," "Economic Aspects of the Rectification Process," "Social Problems and Achievements in Cuba's Transition to Socialism," "Public Health in Cuba," "The International Context: Policies, Leaderships, and Dilemmas," "Women in Revolutionary Cuba," "Cuba's Relations with the Socialist Countries," and "The Cuban-American Community."

Sharing the platform will be panelists from about a dozen countries. Among them will be academics from U.S. universities, including Harvard, Cornell, Columbia, and the University of California, as well as from Canada's Laurentian and Carleton universities and the University of British Columbia.

A 30- to 40-person delegation from Cuba will participate. Among the Cubans coming will be economist and author Carlos Tablada, Esther Véliz of the Federation of Cuban Women, Guillermo Cabrera from the Cuban Communist Party newspaper *Granma*, media analyst Carlos Iglesias, Félix Sautié from the José Martí Publishing House, and Jorge Enrique Mendoza of the Institute of History of the Cuban Revolution.

Representatives of Pathfinder, a New York-based publisher, will give presentations at several of the panels. Pathfinder is the English-language publisher of many of the writings of Cuban President Fidel Castro, the Argentine-born Cuban revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara, as well as other books on the Cuban revolution. *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* by Carlos Tablada, for example, was recently published by Pathfinder.

## Cuba economist to tour Canada

BY GEORGE A. ROSE

TORONTO — The ideas of Ernesto Che Guevara on building socialism will be heard and discussed by thousands of people across Canada in November through a two-week speaking tour by Cuban economist Carlos Tablada.

Tablada's book, *El pensamiento económico de Ernesto Che Guevara* (The economic thought of Ernesto Che Guevara), was recently published in English by Pathfinder as *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*.

The book has sparked keen interest inside Cuba, and among supporters of the Cuban revolution around the world, due to the renewed emphasis on Guevara's ideas in the current process of rectification in Cuba. This process encompasses a fight against bureaucracy and corruption, rejection of capitalist market mechanisms in organizing the economy, and steps to increase the involvement of working people in running Cuban society.

The tour by Tablada will be a milestone in making Guevara's ideas known in North America. Tablada will first address a Halifax, Nova Scotia, conference devoted to assessing thirty years of the Cuban revolution. (See article on this page.) Tablada will speak on

two panels, one about Guevara's ideas and another on the economics of rectification.

After the November 1-4 conference Tablada travels to speaking engagements at universities in Montréal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver.

In Montréal, Toronto, and Vancouver the author will address public meetings celebrating the publication of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*. The platforms will also include leaders and activists from the labor, solidarity, and other social movements in Canada.

The Toronto-based Canada-Cuba Friendship Association has printed a review of Tablada's book and an ad for the Toronto meeting in its newsletter *Amistad*. A CCFA representative will welcome Tablada at the meeting.

In Montréal the meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 5, at 1205 rue Visitation. The Toronto event will be held at the 519 Church Street Community Center on Saturday, November 11, 7:30 p.m. The Vancouver celebration will take place at the Russian Hall, 600 Campbell on Friday, November 17, 7:30 p.m. For more information call the Pathfinder bookstores in those cities listed on page 12.

## Before 1959 Cuba was 'colonial paradise for North American rich'

BY GARY STONELAKE AND PACO SÁNCHEZ

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — More than 60 people attended a September 23 slideshow presentation on Cuba. One of the speakers was Ed Haase who participated in the 20th anniversary contingent of the Venceremos Brigade to Cuba in April.

Haase said that before 1959 Cuba was a "colonial paradise for the North American rich," a place of corruption, gambling, and prostitution at the expense of Cuba's workers and farmers. "The revolution started a long process of building up the country" through agrarian reform and a massive literacy campaign, he explained.

Haase noted that the rectification campaign launched in 1986 is reinstituting an attitude that values voluntary work. He cited many examples of new housing, child-care centers, and medical clinics constructed through the voluntary work performed by Cuba's working people.

Leslie Young, the director of the Community Support Service of Johnson County (Missouri) — a program for the long-term mentally ill, explained that health care is a right in Cuba. Policies in mental-health centers, she said, emphasize rehabilitation, the value of productive work, and the involvement of family and community. The goal is to help integrate mentally ill individuals in society.

Young showed slides of Cuban psychiatric facilities where sports, art work, gardening, and farming are part of treatment. Examples of patients' art and other work, which generate 50 percent of the hospital's funds, were shown.

A lively discussion followed. The event was sponsored by the ad hoc Cuba Friendship Committee.



# Open house set for Curtis Committee's new office

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year jail term on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. For more information about the case or how you can help, write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048,

plants, will be appreciated," Sandra Nelson said. She is the office coordinator of the defense committee.

"Getting this new office is a big gain for the defense effort," Nelson said. "It shows the success we've had in winning support for Curtis."

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee had rented space at the nearby Pathfinder Bookstore, which also features Militant Labor Forums. "We were fortunate to have had the

said.

"The new office has a room for our weekly defense committee meetings, office space, and a storage area," Nelson said. Every week 15 to 20 activists meet to discuss the defense committee's activities. Agendas typically include reports on the week's correspondence, new endorsers, outreach, and proposals for activity from the group's steering committee.

Nelson also reported progress in other areas of the committee's work.

A new speakers' bureau has been set up, for example, to aid Curtis' fight for justice. "The bureau will help defense committee supporters who are planning public meetings over the next few months," Nelson said.

The initial list of participants includes Alfredo Alvarez, chairperson of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission; the Hollywood director and producer Nick Castle, Jr.; Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife and a leader of the defense committee; Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican immigrant and political activist who won residency in the United States after a decade-long struggle; and Sammye

Roberts, former president of the Alabama National Organization for Women. Also participating in the speakers' bureau are John Studer, coordinator of the defense committee; well-known Puerto Rican poet and author Piri Thomas; Hollis Watkins, a Mississippi activist and board member of the Foundation for Children and Youth; and Hazel Zimmerman, secretary of the defense committee.

A 50-minute video by Nick Castle, Jr., on Curtis' frame-up can now be ordered from the defense committee. "This video will be useful for all types of meetings, to win broader support," Nelson said. "It can be premiered at some of the defense meetings that have been planned."

A massive international mailing will soon be shipped out, according to Nelson. "It has been a few months since we last updated our endorsers across the United States and around the world," the defense committee activist said. "We want to let them know about the progress of the defense campaign and about new de-

velopments in Mark's case, provide them with a fact sheet, and ask for funds to continue the fight."

"We urgently need funds," Nelson said. "We spend the money as we get it. So we prioritize which projects to accomplish and which bills to pay. More effort will be put into fund-raising." There are big opportunities to raise the needed money, she said. "Everyone expects that contributions will be needed when they are asked to support a case like this. I expect this aspect of the defense effort will improve as defense activities pick up in the next period."

The committee is revising its \$100,000 fund goal set earlier this year and will project a new goal, to be raised by February 1. Over the last few weeks activists working in the Des Moines office raised several thousand dollars.

For more information on speakers, the video, and the activities of the defense committee, write or call the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines.

## DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

Des Moines, Iowa 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

If you have news or reports on activities in support of Mark Curtis from your city or country, please send them to the Militant.

On November 1 activists of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee will host an open house at their new storefront office in Des Moines, Iowa. The office is located near the corner of 22nd Street and Forest Avenue, just a few blocks from Drake University and Des Moines' Black community. "Office-warming gifts, from paper clips to house

space at the bookstore, because in the beginning we couldn't maintain or afford an office of our own," Nelson said. "But now, with more than 6,000 endorsers from all over the world and a strong group of local activists, we will be expanding our efforts and need an office."

Nelson explained that a special invitation to the defense committee's open house has been mailed to Iowa supporters. Activists are already pitching in to prepare the new office. "You can tell everyone's enthusiasm has picked up. Last week activists attending our regular meeting became a cleanup crew," she

# Discussion, debate mark Boston conference on Cuba

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — A conference on "Cuba's Socialism: The People's Participation" attracted more than 180 participants here October 20-21.

The gathering was sponsored by the José Martí Project of the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. The project grew out of 12 years of Cuba studies classes organized by social work professor Demetrius Iatridis.

Lively conference debates and discussions were also marked by a protest aimed at the U.S. government for its refusal to grant a visa to one of the two scheduled keynote speakers, Alejandro Oduardo Gálvez, a representative of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples. Noted Cuban poet Pablo Armando Fernández, editor of *Unión*, the journal of the National Union of Cuban Artists and Writers, was granted a visa and was able to attend.

A Friday evening session focused on education in Cuba. Saturday morning opened

## Participants protest U.S. government's refusal to grant visa to a keynote speaker.

with a presentation on art and culture in the revolution by Fernández and a panel discussion on citizens' participation in the Cuban revolution.

The panel, which replaced the opening keynote address that was to be given by Gálvez, featured Don Rojas, press secretary to Maurice Bishop, the late prime minister of Grenada; Sandra Levinson, director of the New York-based Center for Cuban Studies; and Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New Internationalist* magazine and the Pathfinder book *In Defense of Socialism*, a collection of speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Ten workshops, covering topics from Cuba's role in African freedom struggles to the Third World debt crisis to religion in Cuba, stimulated a day of rich discussions in the seminars, over meals, and in a corridor packed with literature tables.

About half the conference participants were students from several Boston-area universities, most attending this type of gathering for the first time.

Several young prorevolution Cuban-Americans also attended, along with Central America solidarity, anti-apartheid, community, and political activists.

Nearly two dozen of these students and activists signed up to apply for the 1990 contingent to Cuba organized by the Venceremos Brigade, which held an informational meeting at the conference.

## Human rights in Cuba

A debate over human rights in Cuba broke out during the conference's biggest workshop, led by Cuban-American professor Flavio Risch and Sandra Levinson. It was provoked by a right-wing Cuban exile dispatched from Washington representing "Accuracy in Academia," an outfit that specializes in targeting leftist university professors.

A freewheeling discussion ensued, involving more than a dozen people, touching on recent trials in Cuba, Cuba's laws against "slandering the socialist state," accusations of torture against the Cuban government, Cuba's social programs, and the aims of the U.S.-engineered campaign against Cuba's supposed violation of human rights.

"We have to avoid putting Cuba in a U.S.-imposed straightjacket when we discuss human rights," Levinson said. Washington's "narrow concepts" of human rights, espe-

cially as they are applied to Cuba, must be rejected. In the U.S. government's eyes, Cuba "can do no right," she said.

## Rectification process

A seminar on the subject of Cuba's rectification process, led by Waters, also drew a standing-room-only crowd.

At the center of the rectification process is a "revolutionary mass movement" of Cuban working people that poses collective "social solutions" to a wide variety of challenges facing Cuban society, Waters said. It aims to transform the way people work together to solve problems of scarcity and underdevelopment, to increase the political self-confidence of "the average Cuban working person." Their conscious action is the basis for forging "new socialist men and women," which is the essential aim of building a new society.

Rectification is opposed, Waters said, by a social layer that "lives better than the average worker and thinks that's how it should be. Many administrators and technocrats see no need for voluntary labor — particularly their own. They aren't happy to see working people mobilizing to eliminate the inequali-

ties that exist. They feel threatened by it. They question the 'expense' of Cuban troops in Angola and the allocation of resources to improving the medical system even more, solving housing problems, and meeting other social needs."

The struggle to deepen and advance rectification, Waters said, must be understood as part of the worldwide debate on the very possibility of socialism, which is being questioned by many, impelled by developments in the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, and elsewhere.

This, Waters noted, is really a debate over whether or not humanity can control its own destiny and decide and implement its social priorities as opposed to being driven and controlled by the blind laws of capitalism. Cuban revolutionaries are saying yes to the question, Is freedom possible?

This subject sparked a spirited discussion lasting beyond the formal conclusion of the workshop.

The conference participants felt the gathering had been a big success. There was strong sentiment to have a repeat meeting next year.

## Event in solidarity with southern Africa attacked with CS gas

LONDON — An October 21 meeting in solidarity with the freedom struggles in southern Africa was attacked with CS gas, a form of teargas.

The meeting of more than 70 people was endorsed by the Anti-Apartheid London Committee.

The video *Response to the South African Escalation*, a documentary about the defeat of South African forces in Angola by Cuban and Angolan troops, was shown. Roberto de Armas, first secretary of the Cuban embassy, and Loyiso Pukwana of the African National Congress spoke at the meeting, held at the London School of Economics.

As the meeting came to a close, a premeditated explosive device released the gas. Police evacuated the building and cordoned off the surrounding area. A fire brigade removed the device.

A statement released by organizers of the meeting said, "While we do not yet know who was responsible for the attack, we are clear that it was promoted by frustrated failure to stem the tide of struggle for liberation. As the people of South Africa, Namibia, and Cuba make new strides in this struggle, we are not intimidated by such attacks, but emboldened in our solidarity."

This publication is available in microform from University Microfilms International.

Call toll-free 800-521-3044. Or mail inquiry to: University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

## Contribute to the Pathfinder Fund

Pathfinder Press publishes writings and speeches by communist and working-class fighters such as Fidel Castro, Ernesto Che Guevara, Malcolm X, Maurice Bishop, Thomas Sankara, Farrell Dobbs, James P. Cannon, Nelson Mandela, Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, and Leon Trotsky.

A special effort has been urged to raise \$100,000 by November 1 in the \$150,000 fund that was launched by Pathfinder in August. Because of growing receptivity, Pathfinder needs funds right away to help reprint additional quantities of

some new books and pamphlets, including *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*, of which 16,000 copies have already been shipped.

Even with increased sales, Pathfinder does not come close to covering costs without special contributions from supporters. Pathfinder needs your financial help to continue its ambitious publishing and promotion of revolutionary working-class literature.

So far \$66,877 has been collected. The deadline for completing the fund is December 1. Please contribute as generously as possible.

\$150,000  
\$100,000  
\$66,877

☐ Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ I wish to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward the fund.

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Clip and send to Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.



# Sales trip to Pittston strike area welcomed by miners



Reading the *Militant* at kitchen table at UMWA's Camp Solidarity in Carterton, Virginia.

Militant/Kipp Dawson

BY BOB MILLER

In late September and early October, a *Militant* sales team visited the coalfields of Virginia, Kentucky, and West Virginia, where the strike by 1,900 miners against the Pittston coal company is centered.

*Militant* salespeople visited the picket shacks set up by striking miners at Pittston's mines and also went door-to-door in surrounding communities and hollows where miners' families live, nestled in the Appalachian hills.

In 10 days, the team sold 50 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 103 single copies of the paper, and 12 copies of the pamphlet *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*.

Many Pittston strikers and others in the mining communities were already familiar with the *Militant* and appreciated the paper's coverage of their strike and of the broader miners' resistance, as well as other labor battles.

The daughter of a disabled Pittston miner in Dante, Virginia, said she had read her neighbor's *Militant* and decided to get a subscription. She works as a waitress and regularly talks about the strike with miners.

Several activists in the United Mine Workers of America's women's auxiliary renewed their subscriptions, and two bought the Action Program as well.

A striker outside Pittston's Elkay mine on Rum Creek in southern West Virginia told

team members he had seen the *Militant* while participating in the three-day takeover of Moss No. 3 coal preparation plant a few weeks earlier. He was eager to read the paper's coverage of that action.

Others, including a striker from McClure, Virginia, decided to subscribe after glancing through the paper.

There are many nonunion mines in the areas where the strike is taking place. A victory for the Pittston strikers would be a shot in the arm for the union's organizing efforts, several strikers commented as they were signing up for subscriptions.

A worker at Pittston's nonunion Paramount mine near Norton, Virginia, also noted that a defeat for the UMWA in this fight would lead to drastic slashing of wages and benefits at all nonunion mines.

A major issue in the Pittston strike is the company's decision to cut benefits and medical care for disabled miners, retirees, and widows. Many of the retirees and a widow who got subscriptions told team members they were actively backing the strike.

People also helped the team by suggesting good sales locations in the mountainous mining region. One grocery store owner in Banner, Virginia, asked for an extra subscription card after he signed up.

For many people, the decision to subscribe was an easy one, after looking through the *Militant*'s firsthand coverage of the strikes at Eastern, Boeing, and Pittston.

Some, however, were suspicious at first. They explained that they had seen the *Bulletin* newspaper and did not want anything to do with a paper like that. They said they considered it antiunion. The *Bulletin* is put out by a small outfit called the Workers

League. The group's disruptive, antilabor activities are becoming more widely recognized among miners and other union activists, including its efforts to disrupt the international defense campaign for framed-up unionist Mark Curtis.

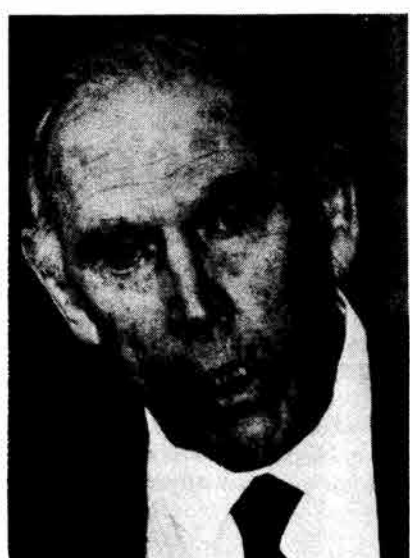
In Vansant, Virginia, the *Militant* sales team was told that the *Bulletin* had been given

out in the area that day and the day before. A miner who works for Island Creek coal company and a student decided to get *Militant* subscriptions and the Action Program after talking with team members about Cuba, the new rise of labor struggles in the United States, and the Mark Curtis defense campaign.

## Subscription drive scoreboard

Areas	DRIVE GOALS			Militant		New Int'l		Perspectiva		Lutte	
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
<b>UNITED STATES</b>											
Detroit*	260	248	95%	207	212	30	15	18	17	5	4
St. Louis*	200	176	88%	165	150	25	18	7	7	3	1
Greensboro, NC*	120	101	84%	95	84	15	8	8	8	2	1
Austin, Minn.*	102	85	83%	75	61	10	9	15	15	2	0
Kansas City	117	96	82%	80	69	20	17	15	10	2	0
Des Moines, Iowa	225	183	81%	170	151	25	6	25	25	5	1
Phoenix	77	61	79%	45	43	15	6	15	12	2	0
Cleveland	105	78	74%	75	67	18	8	10	2	2	1
Baltimore	175	128	73%	135	114	25	9	10	5	5	0
San Francisco	240	167	70%	165	115	35	24	35	28	5	0
Brooklyn	410	282	69%	260	148	60	58	65	56	25	20
Morgantown, WV	137	94	69%	100	71	25	21	10	2	2	0
Washington, DC*	205	138	67%	140	107	25	10	35	20	5	1
Birmingham, Ala.	177	118	67%	140	105	25	10	10	2	2	1
Miami	300	200	67%	180	126	40	19	50	25	30	30
Seattle	138	89	64%	95	72	20	3	20	14	3	0
Philadelphia	225	142	63%	155	119	30	1	35	22	5	0
Pittsburgh*	200	126	63%	155	106	30	18	10	2	5	0
Oakland, Calif.	200	123	61%	125	101	30	2	40	19	5	1
Chicago	360	220	61%	225	142	50	35	75	42	10	1
Newark, NJ	490	298	61%	250	190	95	49	95	46	50	13
New York	665	403	61%	330	235	150	62	150	91	35	15
Omaha, Neb.*	137	82	60%	100	66	20	4	15	12	2	0
Portland, Ore.	195	115	59%	150	94	20	8	20	10	5	3
Salt Lake City	137	80	58%	100	51	20	19	15	10	2	0
Twin Cities, Minn.	320	186	58%	250	167	35	1	30	16	5	2
Price, Utah	52	30	58%	35	26	8	1	8	3	1	0
Atlanta	210	120	57%	155	96	30	11	20	13	5	0
Boston	250	141	56%	160	93	35	15	40	20	15	13
Los Angeles	510	279	55%	285	179	90	9	130	91	5	0
Houston	227	121	53%	150	103	30	7	45	8	2	3
Charleston, WV	112	59	53%	90	52	15	3	5	4	2	0
Milwaukee	123	64	52%	85	57	15	1	20	5	3	1
National teams	-	34	-	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	-
Binghamton, NY*	45	29	64%	36	25	3	2	4	1	2	1
Cincinnati	10	4	40%	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denver	20	4	20%	10	1	-	-	10	3	-	-
Louisville, Ky.	8	2	25%	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	50	40	80%	40	33	5	2	5	5	-	-
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>7,534</b>	<b>4,946</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>5,031</b>		<b>1,124</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>											
<b>BRITAIN</b>											
Manchester	74	48	65%	50	35	18	9	5	4	1	0
South Yorks	107	65	61%	70	33	25	26	10	6	2	0
London	165	89	54%	105	53	30	18	25	18	5	0
South Wales	62	26	42%	40	21	10	1	10	1	2	3
Other Britain	-	24	-	-	22	-	-	-	2	-	-
<b>BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CANADA</b>											
Toronto*	290	211	73%	180	141	40	26	55	38	15	6
Vancouver	145	105	72%	100	71	20	14	20	15	5	5
Montreal	230	133	58%	90	52	40	10	40	38	60	33
Other Canada	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>102%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>ICELAND*</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>											
Wellington	86	74	86%	70	67	12	6	3	0	1	1
Christchurch	77	48	62%	60	35	10	10	5	3	2	0
Auckland	162	64	40%	120	49	30	7	10	8	2	0
<b>N. Z. TOTAL</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Int'l teams	205	90	44%	100	72	25	4	75	12	5	2
Other int'l	-	13	-	-	11	-	-	-	2	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,370</b>	<b>6,090</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>6,123</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>178</b>
<b>DRIVE GOALS</b>	<b>9,000</b>			<b>5,800</b>		<b>1,400</b>		<b>1,400</b>		<b>400</b>	
<b>TO BE ON SCHEDULE</b>		<b>6,000</b>	<b>67%</b>		<b>3,867</b>		<b>933</b>		<b>933</b>		<b>267</b>

\*Raised goal during drive



Jock Barnes

## 'The Militant stands alone'

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Meetings are being held here and in Wellington and Christchurch to raise funds to subsidize the *Militant*'s distribution costs in New Zealand and to help cover expenses of sending articles to the paper in New York.

Veteran labor leader Jock Barnes, a central figure in the six-month nationwide struggle by longshoremen in 1951, spoke at the Auckland meeting. "The *Militant* stands alone," he said. "If there is any publication in the world today in any way comparable, I have yet to hear of it. Would that it could be in every household."

"There is one thing we can do, and that is promote it in every walk of life and wherever we may be. Every new reader could be another step on the road to a society that produces for the good and needs of its people, as distinct from the profit of a ruthless few."

## Int'l sales drive ends sixth week on schedule

BY SUSAN LaMONT

As the scoreboard on this page shows, the international drive to win 9,000 new readers for the socialist press ended the sixth week of the nine-week effort just a little ahead of schedule — one percentage point.

The scoreboard includes only initial results from the October 21-27 target week. Final figures and an article summing up the special week will be carried in the next *Militant*.

Reports from the first few days of the target week have begun to come in. A three-person team from the Twin Cities and Austin, Minnesota, traveled to International Falls where construction workers are waging a militant strike against Boise Cascade paper company. The two-day team sold 22 *Militant* subscriptions, 17 single copies of the paper, and 13 copies of the Pathfinder pamphlet *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*. Nine of the subscriptions were sold in Ft. Frances, Ontario, across the border from International Falls. Three were sold to paperworkers at a shift change at the Boise Cascade mill.

Issues No. 5 and No. 6 of the *New Internationalist* have been reprinted with updated ads for Pathfinder literature and attractive new covers designed by Toni Gorton. No. 6 — which features the article, "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop," by Steve Clark — sells for \$7. No. 5 carries "The Coming Revolution in South Africa" by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes and costs \$5. Copies can be ordered from the *Militant* Business Office at the address on page 2.



# Philadelphia strikers set Oct. 28 'walk-through'

Some 8,500 International Association of Machinists members struck Eastern Airlines March 4 in an effort to block the company's drive to break the union and impose massive concessions on workers.

Backed by flight attendants and pilots, the walkout crippled Eastern, grounding a big majority of its 1,040 prestrike daily flights.

Since July Eastern has been trying to restart operations. By early October it was scheduling 700 daily flights.

The Eastern workers' fight has won broad support from working

were extended to striking Pittston coal miners, the miners' women's auxiliary, and other miners.

Eastern strikers from other Pennsylvania and East Coast cities have also been invited.

Holding an action that can make the strike in Philadelphia more visible in light of the recent sale of nine of Eastern's gates to Midway Airlines is especially important, strikers point out. The \$210 million sale to the largely nonunion carrier includes the bulk of Eastern's facilities in Philadelphia, along with planes and other equipment.

"Our message is very clear," said Local 1776 speakers bureau member Josefina Otero. "To Lorenzo's dismay, our strike is solid and we will not go away. We are still on strike here in Philadelphia, just like we are all across the country in every airport where Eastern exists." Frank Lorenzo heads Texas Air Corp., which owns both Eastern and Con-

tinental airlines.

"Time is working in our favor — not Lorenzo's," she added. "We are still in the fight, and the October 28 walk-through will help make that clear."

Striking Machinists at Washington, D.C.'s National Airport have called an airport walk-through for November 3 starting at 6:00 p.m. It will be the fourth walk-through organized by IAM Local 796's Strike Outreach Committee and striking flight attendants.

Leaflets announcing the action have gone out to unionists and students in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Three strikers — two Machinists and a flight attendant — went to the United Mine Workers' Camp Solidarity in southwestern Virginia October 13 and 14 to talk with miners on strike against Pittston Coal and to invite them to the walk-through.

Eastern strikers from Washington, D.C., also participated in a support rally for coal miners in Stone, Kentucky.

"A victory against Eastern and Pittston will put everyone in a stronger position to fight for a living wage, medical benefits, and the decent working conditions we deserve," says the walk-through leaflet, which also invites participation in a November 15 caravan to Camp Solidarity.

The caravan is being organized by the Virginia State AFL-CIO to bring food, money, clothes, and toys to striking United Mine Workers of America members and their families.

Labor solidarity is growing on Boston's North Shore, where many Eastern Machinists union members and flight attendants and some 2,500 striking NYNEX telephone workers live. The North Shore Labor Council recently voted to make support for

the Eastern, NYNEX, and Pittston Coal strikes its priority.

The council organized a rally of 500 at the NYNEX facility in Lynn September 21 and initiated an Eastern strike support rally that drew 250 at Logan International Airport October 12.

It has also set up the North Shore Labor Food Bank that provides food to Eastern and NYNEX strikers' families on a weekly basis. The food bank operates out of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201's union hall in Lynn. IUE Local 201 represents workers at the big General Electric plant in that city.

Some 200 people, including many Eastern and NYNEX strikers, attended a "Solidarity Dance" in Lynn October 19 that raised almost \$3,000 for the food bank. Local 201 members, who recently donated \$2,300 to the food bank, are planning a canned goods collection at the GE plant.

## SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

people in the United States and Canada. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

Strikers in Philadelphia are inviting union members and other supporters to join them in a "We're Still on Strike Walk-Through" at the Philadelphia International Airport October 28.

Striking Machinists union members, flight attendants, pilots, and others will meet at 12:00 noon at IAM Local 1776's hall for a kick-off rally. After the rally, everyone will head over to the airport, where the walk-through will begin at 2:00 p.m. Participants are invited back to the Machinists hall afterward for an open house.

Local 1776 members began organizing the walk-through right after an October 17 strike meeting called the action.

The next day the Machinists local put out a flyer and began sending it to unions in the Philadelphia area. News of the walk-through was put on the strike's telephone hotlines. Special invitations to attend the event



Militant/Kathy Mitchell

Philadelphia strikers have called October 28 action to raise visibility of their fight. Above, Local 1776 members joined Labor Day demonstrations in Philadelphia.

The Delegate Assembly of United University Professions took a break from their meeting held earlier this month in Buffalo, New York, to show their solidarity with the strike at Eastern.

The UUP represents faculty members and other professionals at the State University of New York.

Acting on a motion from delegate Jean Dickson, a delegate from SUNY in Buffalo, delegates adjourned their meeting and marched to the Buffalo Airport.

When the assembly reconvened, delegates unanimously approved a resolution supporting the Eastern strikers and urging UUP members not to fly Eastern, Continental, or Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) until the strike is settled to the workers' satisfaction. SAS has a marketing agreement with Continental and owns 10 percent of Texas Air.

Striking IAM Local 796 member Nancy Brown from Alexandria, Virginia, and Russell Davis from Boston contributed to this column.

# 1,500 Miami strike supporters greet travel agents

Continued from front page with five years at Eastern. He is now working at American Airlines for \$10 an hour less than he used to make. "Is my new job worth a \$10 pay cut? No, but the strike is," he said. "We have to take a stand now. I'm pumped up by this action and very enthusiastic to see this tremendous turnout after so long on strike. This confirms that we can outlast Lorenzo. Our slogan, 'One day longer,' is right."

All unions "have some of the same problems," commented Eddie Burns from Local 3290 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers. In Dade County, where Miami is located, "public employees face union-busting privatization schemes. Everybody should stick together."

Roland Rolle, president of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute in Miami, commented, "There's no more natural situation than for organized labor and the Black community to work together against oppression. If we don't prevail, there's no telling where we may end up. Once people start beating organized labor, everyone's going to be in deep, deep trouble. We totally support the Eastern strike."

"The American Postal Workers Union is here in solidarity," said Judy Johnson, president of Miami's local of the APWU. "We want ASTA to know that if they do business with Eastern, we won't do business with them."

"We've pledged to support this strike until the last day," she added. "We contribute \$1,000 a month, and we've never missed a payment. And we've raised an additional \$3,000 at two collections at the credit union."

## November 19 statewide march

The Florida AFL-CIO, IAM Local 702, Air Line Pilots Association, and Transport

Workers Union Local 553, representing flight attendants, have called a statewide march and rally for November 19.

To gain support for the action, the sponsors have issued a "Proclamation and Call to Duty for a Labor March and Rally in Miami in Solidarity with the Eastern Strike and for a Workers' Bill of Rights."

The call explains the need for a massive

show of support in Miami, where some 3,000 of the 8,500 Machinists on strike at Eastern nationally are located.

Representatives from each of the nearly 70 South Florida AFL-CIO-affiliated unions have been invited to a November 1 planning meeting for the march and rally.

Since the November 19 march was announced, IAM Local 702's Outreach Com-

mittee has been busy building it. Activists have spoken to a dozen union meetings, a meeting of the Haitian community organization Veye-Yo, and to a National Lawyers Guild gathering.

Pete Seidman is a member of IAM Local 1126 at Dispatch Services. He works at Miami International Airport.

## Eastern Airlines strikers 'tenacity spreads'

BY SUSAN LaMONT

"The tenacity displayed by Eastern strikers may be spreading," noted *Newsweek* October 16. "In recent months, Boeing machinists were wearing 'stop Lorenzo' buttons, referring to Frank Lorenzo, the controversial chairman of Eastern's parent company. . . . Thomas Geoghegan, a Chicago labor lawyer, says some unions are telling management that 'we are going to hurt you very, very badly even if we have to go down, too.'"

Several recent developments in the strike by 8,500 International Association of Machinists members against Eastern Airlines underscore the impact that the walkout — still solid after nearly nine months — continues to have, despite Eastern's efforts to resume operations.

• The Air Line Pilots Association announced October 10 that ALPA members have voted to continue paying strike benefits to the 2,243 pilots who are still on strike at Eastern.

When the strike by ramp workers, mechanics, cleaners, and other IAM members against Eastern began March 4, some 3,400 Eastern pilots honored the picket lines — all but

about 200 management and regular pilots who stayed on the job. In the following months, however, several hundred more pilots crossed picket lines to return to work, including more than 250 in August. Some pilots have also left the strike to take jobs at other airlines.

ALPA represents some 40,000 pilots at 44 U.S. carriers, including all major airlines except American and Continental. Striking Eastern pilots receive \$2,400 a month in strike benefits.

• A financial study commissioned by the creditors' committee of Eastern shows that the airline will have losses of \$521 million from 1990 to 1993 — a far cry from the \$621 million in profit projected by the company under its bankruptcy "reorganization" plan. According to Eastern's own financial reports, the company lost \$335 million last year and will lose \$1 billion in 1989.

At the end of 1988, Eastern was \$1.98 billion in debt. The creditors found that by 1993, the company would have to borrow between another \$800 million and \$1.12 billion to pay for its reorganization.

Eastern filed for bankruptcy March 9 and has been in federal bankruptcy court proceed-

ings in New York since then. The company's reorganization plan, aimed at breaking the Machinists' strike and rebuilding as a non-union carrier, hinges on the sale of \$1.8 billion in assets and resumption of some 800 daily flights. The creditors' committee, set up under the bankruptcy proceedings, includes those bondholders, suppliers, and others to whom Eastern owes money.

The committee voted October 17 to have their own financial advisors look at alternatives to Eastern's plan.

• In August 1989 Eastern flew 956.9 million revenue passenger miles — 36 percent of the revenue passenger miles flown by the airline during the same month last year. Eastern says its current flights average 75.4 percent full, due to its low fares.

• Eastern's increased schedule — now at 700 daily flights — is being met by using planes and crews leased from Continental Airlines, the other carrier owned by Eastern's parent company, Texas Air Corp.

Eastern reports leasing 16 Continental planes. ALPA spokesman Mark Bathurst, however, says Eastern is using 28 Continental aircraft.



# How New York hospital workers scored gains, strengthened union

BY PETER THIERJUNG

NEW YORK — Hospital workers here scored a major victory at the beginning of October, when divided and demoralized private hospital employers were forced to bargain with the union and make concessions to the workers.

The conclusion of contract talks came October 5, one hour before members of Local 1199 of the Drug, Hospital and Health Care Employees Union were set to initiate a full-fledged strike.

The contract — covering more than 47,000 workers, the majority Black, Latino, and female — included wage raises of 20 percent over three years; improvements in health benefits, pension plan, and company-funded training programs; company subsidies for child care; benefits for part-time workers; and provisions against speedup.

As the strike deadline approached, individual employers bolted the League of Voluntary Hospitals and the Association of Voluntary Nursing Homes representing management at 53 institutions. Dennis Rivera, president of Local 1199, reported, "We literally had more people lining up to settle than we had phones to talk to them." Torn by internal divisions and faced with a potential rout, the remaining league members caved in and settled as a group.

## Union revitalized

The victory represented a turnaround for Local 1199, which suffered a defeat after a 47-day strike in 1984. That defeat left the union's leadership bitterly divided and the union without a contract for two years. An emboldened management imposed harsh work conditions and disciplinary measures against workers and reneged on a promised 5 percent wage increase. Many workers considered the union broken.

But this year the situation was different as actions by the workers in the hospitals and on the streets signaled their willingness to take on the employers.

Mini Solla, a union delegate and activist at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan, said the solidarity last May of Local 1199 members with the nurses on strike at the hospital was a clear indication things had changed.

The hospital threatened layoffs, blaming the nurses' strike. Nurses don't belong to Local 1199, but members of 1199 responded quickly by calling a meeting in the hospital's cafeteria. The workers planned to occupy the cafeteria, but management sensed their anger and allowed the workers to use a large conference room.

The meeting was packed, Solla recalled. After making a decision to demand no layoffs, with the threat of a job action to back it up, the workers marched to the hospital's corporate offices. Almost 300 of the hospital's more than 1,000 employees were involved. "Things moved so quick. After it was over, someone suggested we call the union officials to make sure they backed us up. 'I knew things were rolling then,' Solla said.

At the following meeting, attended by



Militant/Jon Hillson

union officials, it was agreed that Local 1199 would file the requisite 10-day strike notice with the employer. A few days later the hospital settled on terms favorable to the nurses.

## Membership prepares

With the contract due to expire at the end of June, union members began informational picketing outside hospitals and made other preparations. The union's chapters — the membership unit at each hospital — held regular meetings. Workers also held departmental meetings almost weekly, Solla said.

Workers exchanged information, discussed strike matters, and got the latest news from negotiators at these gatherings. "We decided to change the way we handled grievances," Solla said. Instead of having one union representative approach the company or supervisor, "we decided to involve the whole department. At some grievance meetings we had more than 150 people," she said.

With the league stonewalling negotiations, Local 1199 decided to forego a full-fledged strike on July 1. Instead, the local called a series of one-day strike mobilizations and made a public appeal for support with one-page ads in local newspapers.

## Catholic hospitals settle

On July 11 workers staged their first one-day walkout and marshaled a protest of more than 20,000. The spirited march was buoyed by news of Local 1199's first gains. Union officials signed contracts with the city's Catholic hospitals and New York Medical College. Covering more than 5,000 workers, the settlements called for an 8.5 percent wage increase for each year in a two-year contract. The union also won other improvements.

These agreements by hospitals in no better financial shape than other league hospitals helped strengthen 1199's bargaining position.

Under the slogan "Do the right thing," the membership mobilized again on July 24. Almost 20,000 workers picketed St. Luke's-Roosevelt and Mount Sinai Medical Center, chanting "Down with the bosses" and "We shall overcome."

"Through these actions the membership developed a strong sense of self-confidence and power," José Berrios, an 1199 organizer said.

## No contract, no peace

With league offers amounting to no more than a 4 percent wage increase for each year of a three-year contract and demands for concessions in other areas, 1199 members began to press for expanded action. On July 28 union officials announced that a one-day strike for July 31 had been called off in favor of a three-day walkout beginning August 14. The slogan of the hospital workers became "No contract, no peace."

A 10,000-strong crowd kicked off the three-day August walkout with a march from city hall in New York to a labor solidarity rally in Battery Park. Some 1,000 phone workers on strike against NYNEX and three other regional phone companies joined the action, along with contingents of miners on strike against Pittston coal company and Eastern Airlines strikers. United Mine Workers of America President Richard Trumka spoke at the rally. News of the defection of the Bronx-Lebanon Hospital from the league on the eve of the job action met a roar of applause.

A few days before, some 5,000 striking phone workers, Eastern strikers, and members of 1199 had marched down Wall Street.

Continued intransigence by the league provoked a 10-to-1 strike vote by 1199 members on September 21. The vote called for a strike to begin October 4 and to continue until an acceptable contract was won. A full-page ad appeared in the *New York Times* a few days later. It was signed by hundreds of nurses and doctors who supported the hospital workers.

With the October 4 deadline set, workers stepped up their activities. Strike headquarters were secured. Meetings were held to discuss the organization of picket lines and special committees to keep the strike strong. At St. Luke's, workers organized committees to provide strikers with groceries for families,



Militant/Jon Hillson

St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital workers' contingent at July 24 demonstration.

carfare to get to picket lines, and day care.

Plans to reach out for support to the community and the labor movement were also made. "We even made contact with students at John Jay" college near St. Luke's, Solla said.

Employment agencies lined up by the hospitals to provide scab workers were targeted. Unionists entered the agencies and announced to all those signing up for jobs that 1199 members planned to strike. "We let them know what we were fighting for and that they would be scabs if they crossed our picket line," Solla said.

## Unity builds

"You could feel the unity building up," Solla said. "New people moved forward to take responsibility. There was a lot of energy."

Local 1199 also won pledges of support from sanitation workers, Teamster drivers, and construction workers.

On September 29 North General Hospital in Harlem broke with the league and signed a contract with 1199. On October 3, on the eve of the strike, several more hospitals settled with 1199, including Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in upper Manhattan, one of the most important members of the league.

Solla, also a member of the union's negotiating committee, recounted the excitement of the final hours when victory came within

the union's grasp. The union decided to extend negotiations a few hours past the deadline. "We stopped the clock and ran back to our hospitals to tell the people to show up for work the next day and wait for our word," Solla said.

A few hours later, threatened with defeat and a complete rupture of the league, the hospital bosses gave in and offered a contract the union could accept. "We went back to St. Luke's and demanded copies of the proposed contract, which we got, and then we informed the members," Solla said. "We were all pretty happy."

Solla, 37 and a mother of three, helped organize the workers at St. Luke's to join Local 1199 almost 17 years ago. "I almost wish we had the strike, because we were so prepared," she said. Local issues at each hospital are now up for negotiation. Solla is confident that the union will prevail in this round of bargaining as well.

"Our main victory was not just winning a good contract, but the mobilization of the membership," Berrios said. "A movement was generated in the city among our members and other unions."

Berrios said the victory would spur 1199's organizing drives at some of the nonunion hospitals in the city. Local 1199 recently won a contract for some 20,000 home health-care workers. Many of them get their jobs through special hiring agencies and were paid minimum wage. The new contract provided them with a 53 percent wage increase and benefits.

# Washington farm workers' strike

BY MATT HERRESHOFF

PASCO, Wash. — After a week on the picket lines, 500 farm workers here forced Broetje Farms, one of the largest apple orchards in the state, to make major improvements in wages and working conditions.

The strike began October 10 when a dozen workers went to the boss demanding a raise. They had been earning \$8.50 for picking a 1,000-pound bin of apples, plus a 50-cents-per-bin "bonus." The bonus is only paid to those workers still employed at the end of the harvest.

"He told us to go to the packing shed for our checks," explained Enrique, one of the workers. "We began to shout 'Strike, strike!' and everyone went out."

"When everyone left and the boss gave us our checks and told us 'bye bye,' we called the union," said Fernando, another striker.

Before the strike, no workers at the 1,800-acre orchard were members of the United Farm Workers of Washington State. But the UFWWS responded quickly and helped the workers organize daily picket lines, gain publicity, and win support in the community.

Many of the strikers had just started work at the farm. "The boss thought that the new hires would break the strike," said Rufina Valencia, who had been working at Broetje just one day when the strike began. "But it wasn't that way, because we're fighting for justice."

Broetje responded to the strike by raising wages to \$11 per bin (plus \$1 bonus) and putting toilets in the fields. Before the strike there were three toilets for the 500 workers, strikers said.

Broetje also relied on other growers to help recruit scabs, some from as far as 100 miles away. With daily picket lines as large as 300, the strikers sought to convince the scabs to

honor the strike, and many did.

After a week on the picket lines, the strikers voted to return to work. "The entire agricultural industry got involved in supporting the grower, working through the Eastern Washington Growers League," said UFWWS President Tomás Villanueva. The growers' league was formed in 1987 to combat the farm workers' union. In that context, explained Villanueva, the workers decided they had won all they could.

Three days after the strike ended, 60 Broetje workers met to plan out continued union activity at the farm. "Now the union has a base there," said Villanueva, and the fight will continue.

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# Rally of 2,000 backs Boeing Machinists

**Boeing tells strikers to "bring some reality into level of expectations."**

BY BOB BRUNEAU

SEATTLE — Chanting "Union, union, union!" more than 2,000 striking machinists and supporters marched and rallied here to press their demands against Boeing Co.

Unionists carrying a banner that read, "District 751 Machinists work best when they say, 'Union Yes!'" led the October 21 march from the union's offices to Boeing's corporate headquarters.

Many of the strikers and their supporters wore "Fighting Machinists on the line in '89" T-shirts as they carried an array of picket signs and handmade placards expressing various strike demands. "Dump the lump" — referring to year-end bonuses, "No mandatory overtime," "Better retirement," "Child care," and "Better medical," were some of the most popular signs. The march demonstrated the high spirits and determination of the strikers.

Boeing's three main production centers are here in Seattle and in Portland, Oregon, and Wichita, Kansas. In all, 58,000 members of the International Association of Machinists are on strike. The Machinists walked off the job October 4.

Washington State Labor Council President Larry Kenney chaired the rally in front of Boeing headquarters. Many representatives from other unions were acknowledged from the platform. Unionists from recent Seattle-area strikes received the loudest applause, especially grocery clerks and nurses who had struck for, and won, better contracts.

IAM District 751 President Tom Baker explained, "This strike is about dignity." He reviewed the major strike issues and the current deadlock in negotiations. "We're on the line and we'll be on the line until we win," he said.

IAM Western Regional Vice-President Justin Ostro added, "This strike is for respect. This strike is for family. This strike is for our future."

A featured speaker was Jesse Jackson. He encouraged the strikers to "fight for fairness. If Walter Sisulu can fight while inside a South African jail for 27 years, then you can fight for your jobs."

Two days following the rally, Boeing's chairman and chief executive officer, Frank

Shrontz, held a news conference — his first public statement on the strike.

Shrontz said Boeing is "not prepared to increase the offer at this point, at all. Our objective is to see if we can bring some reality into the level of expectations."

Despite Boeing's \$82 billion backlog of airplane orders, Shrontz claimed the company does not have "an embarrassment of riches," since its profits last year of \$614 million were "disappointing" by industry standards. He added that the company is not willing to increase the economic package to the Machinists above what is already on the table. Shrontz maintained that the company could not improve its offer and remain competitive.

Bob Bruneau is a member of IAM District 751 in Seattle, on strike at Boeing.



Jim Levitt

Seattle Boeing strikers rallied October 21 in show of strength in third week of walkout

## Miners' camp center of strike support

Continued from front page

the mines, were on duty at the shack we stopped at.

Mailhot, on strike at Eastern for seven months, has helped to organize picket duty. He asked the miners how theirs was going. "This shack hasn't been abandoned in six months," said Hearl. They explained that pickets take eight-hour shifts, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The strikers felt that Pittston, Eastern, and other companies were all allies in union-busting. "Pittston broke the unions at Brinks and Burlington, which they also own, and then they decided to go after coal," said Hearl. "They got a surprise though, and they can't isolate us now like they did in the A.T. Massey strike."

The miners explained that the Moss No. 3 plant has been the site of numerous protests and sit-ins. "The first time we all sat down, the road was filled," recalled Willis. "The mine superintendent couldn't get in the front so he went to the side, but it was blocked. Finally, he parked his car up aways and waded through the creek."

The miners had questions about the Eastern strike. Do the courts and state troopers arrest strikers like they do here in Virginia? Did any union members cross the picket lines? What is Lorenzo up to now, and how strong is the strike?

Mailhot gave them an update and reported

the millions of dollars Eastern loses every time they fly a plane. "They put a 'temporary' restraining order on us after a successful march last summer," said Mailhot. A striker responded, "Everytime we sneeze out here they take us to court. And with all our witnesses the judge will say he believes the one state trooper in the back of the room."

Mailhot described the challenge facing Eastern strikers to help all members of the Machinists union see the walkout not as just an "Eastern strike" but as their own — in the way that most miners view the Pittston strike as their battle, regardless of what company they work for. There are still many Machinists who work at other airlines and at the airports — including IAM members at subcontracting companies doing work on Eastern flights — who aren't yet drawn into the fight at Eastern.

Miners explained that they are all one union and that no one crossed the line despite predictions by Pittston "experts" that 30 percent would cross. Willis asked about the airline industry, where several unions organize employees. "I think that's a big drawback — to have different unions. You all need to be in the same one," he said.

Another striker dropped in and joined the discussion. He said attempts to get negotiations revived were positive, but added that the pressure of the strike still needs to be maintained. "We can't win until we bring

them to their knees — that's what they understand. We need to get in there and shut down production 100 percent — that's the history of the mine workers and it applies to you all as well," he stated.

**Solidarity is key**

"Solidarity is what we need. I'm convinced that eventually it will take all unions coming out together," he added. "Let the world know that we've had enough." All agreed that the mood of working people is changing and that every strike that breaks out reinforces those already fighting.

We headed back to the camp for the weekly Wednesday rally. Despite pouring rain 500 supporters came. Strike coordinator Marty Hudson chaired the rally, and speakers included UMWA Vice-president Cecil Roberts and others. Hudson noted that the message of the Pittston strike is everywhere.

Every union representative who spoke, from South Dakota, Maine, or Hawaii, pledged continuing support. Some 25 government workers from Hawaii, members of the Hawaiian Government Employees Association, were there.

**Support growing**

In a discussion with Pittston striker James Gibbs, he described a strike-support tour he had just taken to Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, and Washington D.C. Gibbs reported on several activities held in Indiana, where UMWA miners have contributed more than \$100,000 to the Pittston strikers. "Our strike has become a strike of all unions, not just the UMWA," he said.

Kim Richno from a UMWA local in Terre Haute, Indiana, explained that this was his first time staffing the camp and that he wants to return again. "We can't lose this strike because it would mean an end to union coal mines," Richno said. He noted the dangerous safety conditions of nonunion mines.

**Daughters of Mother Jones help**

In the kitchen Peggy Dutton of the Daughters of Mother Jones, explained that the group of 140 helps out at the camp. Members also travel, speaking on the strike.

Most of the food is donated. "Just about all the states have sent donations to this camp," Dutton said, "and one local woman, a retired rail worker's wife, has baked us 340 pies and 200 cakes."

The next morning at breakfast, which is a big operation, one striker explained that when Moss No. 3 was occupied, many supporters stayed at the camp. "We fried 169 dozen eggs and more than 50 pounds of bacon one morning."

Our carload pulled out midday, after Mailhot presented the miners with an Eastern strike picket sign for the camp. Several caravans will be arriving over the next few weeks, including steelworkers from Detroit and auto workers from Georgia.

The week we were there news came in of the arrest of nine men accused of bombing a coal tippie at the Milburn Colliery Co. in Fayette County, West Virginia. Miners there have been on strike since 1984. Hearings will begin October 27.

## 5,000 Ohio steelworkers strike Timken Co.

BY JOAN RADIN

CANTON, Ohio — A strike by nearly 5,000 steelworkers against the Timken Co. began September 25 at mills in Canton, Columbus, and Wooster, Ohio.

Workers were on the picket line one minute after their old contract expired, after rejecting the company's proposed four-year contract offer by a more than 80 percent margin.

The strikers are members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1123. More than 4,000 work at Timken's Canton facilities.

Timken is the world's largest steel bearing manufacturer, with plants in Brazil, Australia, Britain, France, and South Africa. Its corporate headquarters are here in Canton. In 1988 Timken made a record profit of \$1.9 billion.

The biggest issue in the strike is the company's demand that the union accept a pension plan that would leave workers with a full retirement benefit of \$667 per month after 30 years in the mill.

Wages are the second biggest issue. Steelworkers at Timken have given the company concessions for the last nine years. Most recently, they gave up 45 cents an hour in wages after a one-month lockout by Timken in September 1986. Average hourly wages were \$11.80 when the old contract expired last month.

The proposal rejected by the USWA members included a 75-cents-an-hour wage increase over four years, a \$750 signing bonus, and a cost-of-living adjustment that applies only if the consumer price index rises to 4 percent and would not be rolled into the

hourly wage until the last year of the agreement. The company is also demanding givebacks on health benefits.

Strikers maintain a strong presence around the clock at all the gates at the Canton facilities. At each gate is a picket shanty, and next to many shanties stand Christmas trees decorated with empty soda cans.

The trees send a message to the company about the strikers' determination to stay on the picket line as long as it takes, the workers explain. They also have a good supply of Easter bunnies and plastic eggs on hand, they add.

Although production has been completely halted at the struck mills, Timken's modern Faircrest plant in Canton remains in operation. Also organized by the USWA, the Faircrest operations employ 800 workers whose contract does not expire until 1992. On the picket line, strikers frequently stress the importance of fighting for a three-year contract and a common expiration date.

"This used to be a good place to work," one striker explained, "but the last nine years have been hell. Nobody wants to strike, but it's the only hammer we've got and we're using it for as long as we have to."

"Back then everyone was taking concessions," said another steelworker, referring to the last decade. "We were willing to help the company, but they haven't been fair as far as the sacrifices we took to help them. We gave up a lot and now they're still kicking us in the butt."

Years of attacks on the union contributed to the overwhelming strike vote, the steel-

workers say. "We're mad," said one striker, "and the contract isn't good enough. But a lot of what they've done to us doesn't show up on paper. Like contracting out. We've seen so much work go out of the mill while they were laying off, while people were losing their homes. They've brought back a lot of retired salaried people and they say, 'Well, they're only working part-time.' But they're doing jobs union people did six or seven years ago."

Other strikers explained why pension benefits are the key issue in the strike.

"What they have now is this point system — so many points for how long you worked, so many points for your age," said one worker. "Everybody gets something different. Guys with 30 years in the mill can't afford to retire, and the young people can't get hired. It should be 30 years and out, full pension, no matter how old you are. As it is, now we have retirees getting \$500 a month after 30 years in the mill."

"You can't live on that," Local 1123 President Jack Nicholson told the *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*, referring to the \$667 a month pension offer. "The union is looking for about \$1,000 a month in pension payments."

Contract talks have been stalled by the company. On September 28 the USWA filed a complaint against Timken with the National Labor Relations Board for failing to negotiate in good faith.

"They're not really talking," said one striker. "They just come to the table for show. Things are different. Now it's our turn."



# Kentucky strikers remain strong

## Determined to win at Pittston, Mine 29

BY RONI McCANN

ROBINSON CREEK, Ky. — One of the roads you can take to get to West Virginia from Virginia swings through Kentucky. Having just pulled out of Camp Solidarity in western Virginia, we decided to stop off and visit Kentucky miners on strike at Rob Fork's Mine 29 Mining and Processing.

Ernie Mailhot, an Eastern striker at New York's La Guardia airport; two ramp workers from Trans World Airlines; and I drove to Virginia from New York on October 17 to visit Camp Solidarity and attend the weekly rally in support of striking Pittston miners, members of the United Mine Workers of America.

Some 20 miners were on picket duty at the entrance of Mine 29, outside of Jenkins, in eastern Kentucky. They gave us a warm welcome, and we stayed to talk for awhile. The miners had plenty of questions on how things were going with the Eastern Airlines strike since there's not much news on it.

### Strikes back Pittston miners

Some 50 UMW miners at Mine 29 went on strike October 2 along with 200 union miners at Sun Glo Coal, also in Kentucky, and UMW members at five mines in West Virginia. The walkouts were called to stop the companies from selling coal to Pittston.

Since April 5 some 1,700 miners have been on strike against Pittston Coal Group in Virginia and West Virginia. Pittston miners in Kentucky followed suit a few weeks later. As a result, the company's coal production is down and it has been buying coal from surrounding mines.

West Virginia miners returned to work October 6 after the coal companies agreed to halt shipments to Pittston. At Mine 29, however, the bosses have closed the plant, threatening bankruptcy. This has not intimidated strikers.

"We're going to be here whether they go bankrupt or whatever," one miner said. "If they're running that close, they should shut down anyway," another added. Strikers explain that the company has been stockpiling coal in the plant, but not one load of processed coal has gone out.

### Strike activist confident

"We signed a contract with them, and the only way we are going back is the way we came out — union," said Lonny Tackett, who was organizing picket teams. Tackett has been in the mines since 1973. For the last 10 years he has also been the financial secretary for Local 1812.

Tackett comes from a family of miners; his father mined coal for 42 years before dying of black lung, a disease that commonly afflicts miners. After five years his mother received a benefits check for \$500, which she had to return since it wasn't in her name. The check was never reissued.

Tackett explained that experiences like these are what make the strikers so determined to win. "Local 1812 has a long history of supporting all unions, and we're going to hold strong," he said. At Mine 29 workers participated in the June walkouts when thou-

sands of miners throughout the Eastern coalfields struck in support of the Pittston strike, he said.

### Community support

He described the strong support from the community. When we were visiting, a woman whose husband was a miner dropped off food donations. Strikers said she comes every day. "Pepsi workers come by with soft drinks, and we get discounts at stores. The people are really pulling for us," said Tackett.

Tackett explained the challenge facing the union in the area. "The majority of mines are nonunion, and we have a big battle ahead. The guys who work in those dog holes are afraid to talk about the union because they'll get fired." He discussed the need to educate miners about the union, adding how much even young union miners have learned in the strikes against A.T. Massey in 1984-85 and Pittston today.

Tackett said he thought the UMW's recent reaffiliation with the AFL-CIO "is fantastic. It's important for everyone to merge together — the Teamsters and others should join too. That way if they jump on a shipyard in Maine or the airlines, we can paralyze the country."

"If they want things peaceful they need to sign a union contract," he said. "It's just like one of the articles in the *Militant* where you quote [UMWA President Richard] Trumka saying the miners will stay out one day longer than Pittston — we'll stay out one day longer than this bunch here at Mine 29."

### Sun Glo returns

Initially workers at Mine 29 and at Sun Glo were to return to work together. Sun Glo miners went back to work October 17. Freddie Bowling, president of Local 1812, told



Militant/Roni McCann

Kentucky strikers at Mine 29. Lonny Tackett, front right, with local strike supporter.

the *Mountain Eagle* that he thought the workers at Mine 29 got a bad deal.

Assisting fellow union members at Mine 29 and Sun Glo has been part of the recent activities of the Pittston miners on strike in Kentucky. Headquartered in Stone, northeast of Mine 29, some 200 miners at Pittston's Eastern Coal struck June 19.

UMWA Local 5737 President Glen Stanley explained that Mine 29 workers were prevented by the company from returning to work. He thought the company might abandon the plant now and try to reopen it later.

Stanley reported in a telephone interview that as far as the Pittston miners in Kentucky are concerned, morale is good. "Everything is coming up on a high note."

He described the boost strikers got from their recent rally of 1,500 in Hardy, Kentucky, on October 14. "In addition to the Mine Workers, seven labor organizations attended

— a real good turnout. One Auto Workers local in Louisville, Kentucky, donated \$9,100 to aid our cause." He said members of the local came to the rally in a caravan of three buses with cars following behind — 250 people altogether.

"When you have people taking a five-hour drive to attend a three-hour rally, with financial support and food donations, that shows the support that's out there," said Stanley.

The union official said the UMW's entry into the AFL-CIO was a positive move. "There is a lot we can draw on from the AFL-CIO, and it helps get everyone together with one common cause."

"The AFL-CIO can also learn from the tactics we've used in the past," he pointed out. "We made some mistakes with the 1984-85 Massey strike, but we've learned from those and today we're out to win this strike against Pittston."

## Union caravan backs Pittston miners

BY CLARE FRAENZL

PITTSBURGH TO CAMP SOLIDARITY, Va. — A caravan of buses, cars, and vans filled with 150 unionists headed for Virginia from Pennsylvania on October 13. We took food, clothing, and cash donations collected at plant gates to help support striking members of the United Mine Workers of America against Pittston Coal Group.

Our delegation was led by Julius Uehlein, president of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, and members of the state executive committee. Participants came from Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, and many other smaller cities throughout the state.

The group included members of the United Steelworkers, Mine Workers, and Communications Workers unions, as well as striking Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots from Eastern Airlines. Union garment workers, hospital workers, state and municipal employees, and others joined the caravan.

### Rally kicks off trip

Some 200 joined a send-off rally at the international headquarters of the United Steelworkers of America. Special recognition

was given to the Eastern strikers participating in the caravan.

After many hours the caravan arrived in the hills of southwestern Virginia where Pittston miners' Camp Solidarity is located. As we drove in the Daughters of Mother Jones rushed to greet us, banging pots and pans. They were followed by camouflaged miners, crowding around shaking hands.

The "daughters" are the wives and friends of miners. They work hard supporting the strike, including staffing the camp kitchen 24 hours a day.

Union and other banners left by previous visitors were hung around the camp. Eight unionists from Los Angeles who had arrived earlier brought a huge sign from the Los Angeles Central Labor Council. They sported T-shirts that read, "UMWA-California outpost." Auto workers from Ohio were there arranging a caravan for November. A sign from United Auto Workers Region 6 announced a contribution of \$100,000 to the strike.

After a hardy meal we were treated to bluegrass music. Strikers lit bonfires, and we

all talked late into the night.

James "Buzzy" Hicks, president of UMW Local 1259 at the Moss No. 3 processing plant, estimates that more than 40,000 supporters of the Pittston strike have passed through Camp Solidarity since it was set up in June. "It's central to the strike," said Hicks. "It's something good to be part of." He said 95 percent of the food and supplies are donated by strike supporters.

Hicks described the impact of the strike on the U.S. labor movement. "We woke up the whole country; we're not just union people anymore — we're taking the strike to every working man and woman in the country."

Hicks, like many others, enthusiastically recalled the recent occupation of Moss No. 3 by striking Pittston miners. "The crowds were growing day by day," he said. "People came from all over. The police set up roadblocks to stop them, but people just started walking through the woods." He estimated that 5,000 supporters lined the road to the plant. "I know we're going to win," he said.

### Troopers everywhere

The next morning strikers ferried our delegation to the nearby picket lines. The area is teeming with armed state troopers and Vance security thugs. They take notes on everyone who leaves and enters the camp.

Afterward strikers held a short rally at the camp. Along with our delegation heads, Eastern striker Frank Planinac, president of International Association of Machinists Lodge 1044 in Pittsburgh, spoke, telling the crowd, "our two strikes are one."

We packed up to head home, stopping in Hardy, Kentucky, for a rally to support striking Pittston miners there. Several unions sent delegations, including Eastern strikers from Washington, D.C. On the bus ride back to Pennsylvania a striking Machinist leaned over and said, "We're helping to make history."

Clare Fraenzl is a member of USWA Local 1196 in Brackenridge, Pennsylvania.

## British unionists demand 35-hour workweek

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — A majority of 24,000 unionized engineering workers in seven factories recently voted in favor of strike action in support of reducing the workweek from 39 to 35 hours in the industry.

The unions involved, grouped in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (Confed) that represents 1.1 million workers, announced that three of these factories, employing some 7,000 workers, would be called out on strike beginning October 30.

Majorities of 75 percent in favor of strikes were recorded among manual workers at the British Aerospace plant in Chester and at the Rolls Royce factory in Hillingdon; 70 percent

at British Aerospace, Preston; and of 60 percent at NEI, Newcastle, and British Aerospace, Kingston.

Manual workers at Rolls Royce, Coventry, and Smiths Industries, Cheltenham, voted narrowly in favor of strike action. An average vote by manual workers of 66 percent was registered in favor of action. Staff at all plants voted against a strike, by 66 percent on average.

At a news conference, Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, which has the largest number of members in the industry, called on the employers to resume negotiations on an industry-wide reduction of the workweek. The employers replied that they would only agree to a re-

duction in the working week, if this "was paid for in full by increases in productivity."

The three factories initially targeted are the British Aerospace plants at Preston and Chester in the northwest of England, and the Rolls Royce engines plant at Hillingdon in Scotland. A strike fund has been established to maintain strikers during any dispute. This fund, which is growing at the rate of £700,000 (US\$1.1 million) per week from a levy on the million other Confed workers, presently stands at £10 million.

The union leaders have announced a campaign of meetings of workers at four other engineering companies — Lucas, GKN, Weir Industries and Cattons Foundries — leading to strike votes over the next four weeks.



# Malcolm X: 'Our problem, a world problem'

Printed below are short selections from Malcolm X's Feb. 16, 1965, speech to an audience in Rochester, New York.

Entitled "Not just an American problem, but a world problem," this is the last speech of Malcolm's to appear in print. He was assassinated on Feb. 21, 1965, in New York City.

The speech is one of six previously unpublished speeches and interviews collected in *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*. Published by Pathfinder this past summer, the book provides an overview of the political evolution of Malcolm's views, especially during the last months of his life.

These excerpts are copyright 1989 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press and are reprinted by permission. The book is available for \$8.95 at Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12.

In order for you and me to know the nature of the struggle that you and I are involved in, we have to know not only the various ingredients involved at the local level and national level, but also the ingredients that are involved at the international level.

And the problems of the Black man here in this country today have ceased to be a problem of just the American Negro or an American problem. It has become a problem that is so complex, and has so many implications in it, that you have to study it in its entire world, in the world context or in its international context, to really see it as it actually is.

Many of us fool ourselves into thinking of Afro-Americans as those only who are here in the United States. America is North America, Central America, and South America. Anybody of African ancestry in South America is an Afro-American. Anybody in Central America of African blood is an Afro-American. Anybody here in North America, including Canada, is an Afro-American if he has African ancestry — even down in the Caribbean, he's an Afro-American.

So when I speak of the Afro-American, I'm not speaking of just the 22 million of us who are here in the United States.

But we also realize that the problem facing Black people in this country is so complex and so involved and has been here so long,

unsolved, that it is absolutely necessary for us to form another organization.

Which we did, which is a nonreligious organization in which — is known as the Organization of Afro-American Unity, and it is so structured organizationally to allow for active participation of any Afro-American, any Black American, in a program that is designed to eliminate the negative political, economic, and social evils that our people are confronted by in this society.

This in no way means that we're antiwhite, antiblue, antigreen, or antiyellow. We're antiwrong. We're antidiscrimination. We're antisegregation. We're against anybody who wants to practice some form of segregation or discrimination against us because we don't happen to be a color that's acceptable to you. . . . [Applause]

We don't judge a man because of the color of his skin. We don't judge you because you're white; we don't judge you because you're black; we don't judge you because you're brown.

We judge you because of what you do and what you practice. And as long as you practice evil, we're against you. And for us, the most — the worst form of evil is the evil that's based upon judging a man because of the color of his skin.

It's a science that [the racists] use, very skillfully, to make the criminal look like the victim, and to make the victim look like the criminal.

Example: In the United States during the Harlem riots, I was in Africa, fortunately. [Laughter] During these riots, or because of these riots, or after the riots, again the press very skillfully, depicted the rioters as hoodlums, criminals, thieves, because they were abducting some property. . . .

No! They are the victims of organized thievery, organized landlords who are nothing but thieves, merchants who are nothing but thieves, politicians who sit in the city hall and who are nothing but thieves in cahoots with the landlords and the merchants. [Applause]

We believe that our fight is just. We believe that our grievances are just. We believe that the evil practices against Black people in this society are criminal and that those who engage in such criminal practices are to be

looked upon themselves as nothing but criminals.

And we believe that we are within our rights to fight those criminals by any means necessary.

When you teach a man to hate his lips, the lips that God gave him, the shape of the nose that God gave him, the texture of the hair that God gave him, the color of the skin that God gave him, you've committed the worst crime that a race of people can commit. And this is the crime that you've committed.

Our color became a chain, a psychological chain. Our blood — African blood — became a psychological chain, a prison, because we were ashamed of it.

We felt trapped because our skin was black. We felt trapped because we had African blood in our veins.

But a change has come about. In us. And what from? Back in '55 in Indonesia, at Bandung, they had a conference of dark-skinned people. The people of Africa and Asia came together for the first time in centuries.

They had no nuclear weapons, they had no air fleets, no navy. But they discussed their plight and they found that there was one thing that all of us had in common — oppression, exploitation, suffering. And we had a common oppressor, a common exploiter.

And it was the spirit of Bandung that fed the flames of nationalism and freedom not only in Asia, but especially on the African continent.

The same desire for freedom that moved the Black man on the African continent began to burn in the heart and the mind and the soul of the Black man here, in South America, Central America, and North America, showing us we were not separated. Though there was an ocean between us, we were still moved by the same heartbeat.

Any kind of movement for freedom of Black people based solely within the confines of America is absolutely doomed to fail. [Applause]

As long as your problem is fought within the American context, all you can get as allies is fellow Americans. As long as you call it civil rights, it's a domestic problem within the jurisdiction of the United States government.

And the United States government consists



Malcolm X in Egypt in 1964. Freedom struggle in Africa had impact on evolution of his political views.

of segregationists, racists. Why the most powerful men in the government are racists.

I used to see African diplomats at the UN crying out against the injustice that was being done to Black people in Mozambique, in Angola, the Congo, in South Africa, and I wondered why and how they could go back to their hotels and turn on the TV and see dogs biting Black people right down the block and policemen wrecking the stores of Black people with their clubs right down the block . . . and get up on the podium in the UN and not say anything about it.

But I went and discussed it with some of them. And they said that as long as the Black man in America calls his struggle a struggle of civil rights — that in the civil rights context, it's domestic and it remains within the jurisdiction of the United States.

So one of the first steps that we became involved in, those of us who got into the Organization of Afro-American Unity, was to come up with a program that would make our grievances international and make the world see that our problem was no longer a Negro problem or an American problem but a human problem. A problem for humanity. And a problem which should be attacked by all elements of humanity.

## Right of press to protect sources challenged by Israeli government

BY HARRY RING

A major freedom-of-the-press issue that has emerged in Israel is a government challenge to the right of journalists to protect their sources.

A radio newscaster and several reporters for Israeli dailies have been grilled by the police, demanding they identify individuals who provided them with information for stories.

So far, the reporters have resisted this pressure, despite the threat of jail. Both the Press Council and the National Union of Journalists in Israel have protested what the government is doing.

Some of the news coming out of the West Bank and Gaza makes clear why the authorities take an increasingly dim view of a free press, be it Palestinian or Israeli.

For example, *New York Newsday's* Middle East Bureau reported September 30 that three soldiers convicted of brutally beating a Palestinian were released from prison by their commanding officer.

The three, and a fourth released earlier, had kicked and beaten Hani el-Shami, a resident of a Gaza refugee camp. While he lay on the floor, one of the soldiers jumped onto his chest from a bed.

The four had been acquitted on manslaughter charges because Shami reportedly died while in the custody of other soldiers who also beat him. The others were never brought to trial.

Gen. Matan Vilnai, Israel's Southern Command chief, ordered the soldiers released after each served four months of a nine-month sentence.

He said he did so because of the difficulties of a soldier's duty in the occupation, as well as his duty to back up his men.

At the trial of the four, defense lawyers had argued that the soldiers were being made scapegoats for officers who had given them orders to "beat day and night."

Another example of such orders was furnished in the September issue of *Harper's* magazine. It reprinted an account translated from Hebrew of an army atrocity that appeared May 4 in the Israeli daily *Haaretz*.

The account is by Yossi Sarid, a weekly columnist for the paper.

He wrote that an army captain was summoned to headquarters for a briefing. There, the commanding officer gave him orders to arrest a dozen Palestinians in the West Bank village of Hawwara. He also gave specific orders on what was to be done to them.

The captain protested, but was told that it was a new policy dictated from above.

That night the captain led a contingent of 40 soldiers and four officers to Hawwara, where the 12 wanted Palestinians were rounded up.

They were handcuffed and taken by bus to a nearby orchard.

There the legs of the shackled prisoners were tied and their mouths stuffed with cloth. The bus driver gunned the engine to muffle noise.

The *Haaretz* article states:

"The soldiers then meticulously proceeded to carry out the orders they had been given.

"• Use clubs to break both hands and both legs of Arabs;

"• Do not hit the head area;

"• After breaking hands and legs, untie the wounded and abandon them;

"• Leave the legs of one of the locals unbroken so he can run to the village to get help."

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# Philippine sugar workers defend union

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

BACOLOD CITY, Philippines — A year after 11 leaders of the Negros-based sugar workers' union were accused in a preliminary court hearing with "crimes against the public order," charges have still not been filed.

The authorities accuse the National Federation of Sugar Workers — Food and General Trades (NFSW) of secretly funding the guerrilla war being waged on Negros by the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines.

The NFSW replies that such charges are part of a systematic campaign of intimidation and harassment of the union waged by military and civil authorities. Their aim is to bust the more than 70,000-strong union.

According to NFSW officials, in the three years of President Corazon Aquino's administration, 34 union members and officers have been kidnapped and murdered by soldiers of paramilitary units linked to the big sugar planters who control the island. A further six have been slain during army attacks on their homes. During the same period, more than 4,000 members at 49 sugar plantations have been forced to surrender at military garrisons as alleged guerrillas. The army has also dissolved 17 chapters of the union.

In the 20 years since it was founded among the 400,000 workers on the sugar plantations and in the mills, which dominate the provincial economy, "the NFSW has transformed politics on Negros, spearheading the opposition to militarization" under the Marcos dictatorship, union Vice-president Serge Cherniguin explained in an interview. It has given voice to sugar workers' demands for land and labor rights.

## Paramilitary thugs

Since the overthrow of Marcos in 1986, Cherniguin said the militarization of Negros has actually increased. Under the guise of fighting the guerrilla insurgency thousands more soldiers and paramilitary thugs have been mobilized to block sugar workers' demands that the government implement its

minimum wage and land reform laws on the plantations.

Under the Marcos regime, 80 percent of sugar planters were ruined by slumping world sugar prices and a monopoly by Marcos cronies over the marketing and financing of the sugar crop, Cherniguin said. Thousands of acres of fertile plantation land were left idle and abandoned, while as many as 250,000 sugar workers went jobless and their families starved.

The crisis fueled demands from sugar workers that some of the idle farmlands be made available for them to grow food for their families. At the peak of this movement in 1986, NFSW members had 9,900 acres of "borrowed lands" under cultivation. However, with the rise in world sugar prices, the planters have been taking back their land, sometimes with violence, leaving only 2,500 acres of farm lots under union control, Cherniguin said.

"During the sugar crisis the planters joined the protests in the streets against Marcos. They promised that if control of the sugar industry was returned to them the workers would be remembered," said Cherniguin. "But this has not happened. Instead they are trying to get rid of the union."

## Cooperatives

Under the agrarian reform law adopted by congress in 1987 the distribution of abandoned lands and those foreclosed by the banks is prioritized. This meant, the union leader continued, that up to 85 percent of the sugar lands were eligible for immediate distribution to sugar workers.

The planters are funding militia units, which, together with the military, are being used to expel sugar workers from idle or foreclosed plantations and prevent the workers from demanding that the government turn the land over to them under the terms of the agrarian reform law. Nevertheless, according to the union, the sugar workers have already won more than 7,400 acres of land in this way. With the help of agronomists provided



Militant/Russell Johnson

Sugar workers in Negros, the Philippines. Government and military campaign of intimidation seeks to break the 70,000-member union.

by the NFSW, the workers have organized 15 cooperative farms on these lands.

At one of these cooperatives, Hacienda San Antonio Juan in Victorias, 83 families have been growing rice, vegetables, and herbs and raising livestock since they took over the 2,500-acre plantation in 1988. The bank has agreed that the workers may borrow the land for three years before beginning to pay for it, the NFSW chapter president there said. The cooperative is organized through the NFSW structures and has been able to guarantee its members regular work and three meals a day, he said. Under the previous owner, "we worked only two days a week. When we sat down to eat, the main thought

was where the next meal would come from."

The planters have also been resisting pressures to abide by minimum wage and other labor laws. At one plantation the workers were locked out after demanding the owner pay them the legal minimum of 73.50 pesos (21.5 pesos = US\$1) per day. The owner claimed he could not afford more than 20 pesos, despite booming sugar prices.

An NFSW member described a previous visit he had made to this hacienda with some Japanese visitors. The sugar workers' houses were surrounded by a heavily armed military detachment. The owner had reported that "armed insurgents" were staying with the workers.



## WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

### Salvadoran rebels reject gov't demands

In a second round of peace negotiations between the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the Salvadoran government of Alfredo Cristiani the government demanded the liberation organization "cease hostilities now so the people can live in peace."

The October 16-18 talks took place in Costa Rica. The government proposal to end the 10-year civil war centered on the disbanding of the guerrilla army in January.

The civil war has led to the exile of a million Salvadorans and claimed the lives of 70,000, most of whom were killed by the U.S.-backed and -financed government.

The Salvadoran government has received \$4 billion in U.S. aid since 1979, but average income in the country has dropped by more than a third during the same period.

FMLN leaders rejected the government's demand, calling it "a proposal for unconditional surrender."

The liberation group pushed for adoption of measures that would prevent human rights abuses by the government and lessen the war's effects on the civilian population.

They proposed the government show its willingness to end the war by dismissal of 18 senior commanders of the 57,000-man armed forces.

While no specific steps were agreed upon at the Costa Rica meeting, the Cristiani government and the FMLN agreed to hold further talks in Venezuela in November.

### S. Korea government jails political foes

Hundreds of students, unionists, teachers, politicians, artists, and others have been jailed in South Korea over the past several months.

"Of course some dissidents are being arrested, indicted, and sentenced," said Assistant Foreign Minister Lee Jong Bing.

"These actions are being taken not because [the detainees] have beliefs different from the government policy but because they break laws," the government spokes-

person asserted.

Rim Su Gyong, a 22-year-old student, was arrested for traveling to Pyongyang, North Korea, last July to attend the World Festival of Youth and Students. When she returned home she was jailed. Rim was kept in isolation for a month of police interrogation and denied access to a lawyer or a visit by her parents.

Also indicted is opposition leader Kim Dae Jung. Jung heads the Party for Peace and Democracy, the largest opposition party in the country.

Korea is forcibly divided as a result of U.S. military intervention in 1950. The United States maintains 43,000 troops and more than 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea.

The South Korean government has also begun moves to gain a seat in the United Nations. Both North and South Korea currently have observer status in the body.

The North Korean government denounced this bid to gain a seat prior to reunification as "a treacherous act" that would only legitimize the division of the country.

### E. Timor independence activists arrested

Up to 40 independence activists in East Timor were arrested following a protest during the visit of Pope John Paul II on October 13.

East Timor, located on an island north of Australia, was invaded and annexed by Indonesia in 1976. Amnesty International issued a call for "urgent action" concerning the arrests by the Indonesian security forces.

"On the basis of the reports available and on the past pattern of ill treatment of political prisoners in East Timor, there is reason to be concerned," said an Amnesty spokesperson.

International rights groups have estimated that as many as 200,000 East Timorese out of a population of 650,000 have been killed by Indonesian soldiers or have died after being mistreated.

The arrests followed a protest begun by about 20 young people who approached the Pope's altar shouting independence slogans.

## Human rights tribunal testifies to rising abuses in Guatemala

BY BARRY FATLAND

LOS ANGELES — Describing Guatemala today as "an orgy of blood," witnesses kicked off testimony at the Guatemala Human Rights Tribunal here October 7 at city hall. The tribunal was sponsored by the Guatemala Information Center.

Dozens of representatives of trade union, student, peasant, women's, and indigenous organizations, together with relatives of the disappeared, flew here from Guatemala to tell about the sharp increase in the number of kidnappings, torture, and assassinations in their country.

Guatemala is a mountainous, tropical Central American country of 8 million. More than 50 percent of its population is made up of indigenous peoples from some 22 different ethnic groups, each with its own language. The military has dominated the government since the 1954 U.S.-backed overthrow of the democratically elected government of Jacobo Arbenz.

Nineth Montenegro de García spoke for the Mutual Support Group (GAM), which is open to all relatives of the disappeared. GAM has more than 2,500 members. Her husband, Edgar Fernando García, a union activist, was kidnapped by military police on Feb. 18, 1984, and has not been seen since.

Michael Evans, then human rights spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Guatemala, told García that the G-2, Guatemala's secret police, admitted holding García's husband. Evans advised García to admit that her husband was a communist. She refused, as he was not.

The Guatemalan government repeatedly states that it does not kidnap people, "just communists and terrorists." Anyone opposing government policies is accused of being a communist as a way to justify the massive disappearances and murders.

Prof. Factor Méndez from the CIEPRODH, a human rights monitoring group in Guatemala, listed the January through Sept. 15, 1989, toll — 854 assassinations. This included 121 kidnappings, 134 disappearances, 69 cases of torture, 109 at-

tempts against peoples lives, and 88 death threats. These are partial statistics as they come just from cases reported in the government-controlled media.

Manuel López Castro from the Council of Ethnic Communities (CERJ) described the Vinicio Cerezo regime's efforts to control the peasants' lives. The army forces the peasants to join the "Voluntary Civil Defense Patrols" to stop the "communists." If they refuse to join or stop participating, "they accuse us of being subversives," reported López Castro. This is a death sentence in Guatemala.

Many peasants travel from the highlands to work on farms in southern Guatemala. They earn 25 to 30 quetzals per month. For missing just three of their Civil Defense Patrol shifts during a month away, the army officials charge them 25 to 30 quetzals.

Representatives of all organizations pointed to the role international public opinion has played in protesting the government's brutality and in saving people's lives.

Marvin Pérez, kidnapped and tortured by the uniformed police for two weeks in 1982, explained that the government denied knowing his whereabouts until an international protest campaign forced his release.

The panel of six judges, including Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Grace Davis, Prof. Carlos Ugalde, and representatives of the Methodist and Episcopalian churches found the Cerezo regime guilty of being an accomplice in the disappearances and assassinations as charged.

Most of the speakers are returning to Guatemala, where their lives are in danger. Tribunal organizers urged all to be prepared to respond quickly to any arrests or disappearances. President Cerezo has since denounced the tribunal participants on national television and accused them of belonging to left-wing organizations.

Of the university student leaders invited to speak at the tribunal, 10 were kidnapped just weeks before their departure for the United States. The mutilated bodies of four of them were found days later. Five are still missing.



ARIZONA

Phoenix

**Report from Mexico: Workers Confront Foreign Debt and Economic Crisis.** Speakers: Harvey McArthur, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 99R; Pedro Alvarez, immigrant Mexican worker. Sat., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

**Pathfinder Mural Project Video.** Sat., Nov. 4. Dinner 6:30; video 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: dinner \$3; showing \$2.50. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

IOWA

Des Moines

**Tremors on Wall Street: What Lies Ahead for Working People.** Speaker: Joe Swanson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

**Upsurge in Southern Africa: From Angola and Namibia to South Africa.** Cuba and Angola: *Response to the South African Escalation.* Video showing of Part III of Cuban documentary. Sat., Oct. 28. Dinner 6 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2, dinner \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

**U.S. Hands Off Panama!** Speakers: Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 26; Eric Jackson, Central America solidarity activist and frequent visitor to Panama. Sun., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

Austin

**Government Action on Housing Needed Now.** Panel discussion with Carla Shohet, Hunger and Homeless Action Group, Carleton College; Christine Evert, Young Socialist Alliance, student at Mankato State University; Monica Nigon, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

**Report-back on the Pathfinder Mural.** Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Labor news in the *Militant*

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MISSOURI

St. Louis

**Defend Panama's Right to Sovereignty.** Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

**Defend Abortion Rights.** A panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

**Abortion Rights Today.** Speakers: Christine Rice, November 12 Mobilization coordinator, Brooklyn; Vivian Sagner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City comptroller; Eva Braiman, Binghamton College student. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

**Stock Market Plunge: What Lies Ahead for Working People? Significance of Labor's New Resistance.** Speaker: Greg McCartan, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Manhattan district attorney and staff writer for *Militant*. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

Manhattan

**Music for a Free Namibia.** Benefit jazz concert for South West Africa People's Organisation on eve of Namibia's election, with musicians Roy Ayers, Noel Pointer, and Bobbi Humphrey. Sat., Oct. 28, 8 p.m. Triplex Theatre, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Chambers and West streets. Donation: \$15 in advance, \$20 at door. Sponsors: Friends of the ANC, SWAPO, and the Frontline States; BMCC Student Government and Office of Community Relations. For more information call (212) 618-1980.

**The Political Crisis in Eastern Europe: A Socialist Perspective.** Peter Thierjung, staff writer for the *Militant*. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 29, 5 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

**An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis.** Speaker: Yvonne Hayes, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Sun., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

**Celebrate the Publication of In Defense of Socialism, by Fidel Castro.** A Pathfinder book of four historic speeches by the Cuban president. Sat., Oct. 28. Reception 7 p.m.; meeting 7:30 p.m. 9 E Chelton Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (215) 848-5044.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

**South Africa and Namibia: Advances in the Fight Against Apartheid.** Panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

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**Conversation on Contemporary Cuban Art with Aldo Soler.** Sat., Oct. 28. Reception 7 p.m.; program 8 p.m. 911 Contemporary Arts Center, 117 Yale Ave. Sponsors: Pathfinder Mural Project and 911 Contemporary Arts Center. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

**The International Drug Traffic.** Speaker: Don Rojas, former press secretary to Maurice Bishop, slain prime minister of Grenada. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

**Abortion Rights.** A panel discussion. Sat., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

**Celebrate the Publication of Malcolm X: The Last Speeches.** A panel discussion with Imani Countess, National Alliance of Third World Journalists; Malik Edwards, coordinator, Malcolm X Day Annual Celebration; Fritz Longchamp, Washington Office on Haiti; Ike Nahem, Pathfinder Press; Oscar Ordenes, Latino community activist; Eastern Airlines striker; representative African National Congress of South Africa. Tue., Nov. 7. Film showing of *El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz* (Malcolm X) 6 p.m.; program 7 p.m., reception to follow. Howard University School of Business Auditorium. Sponsors: Howard University Student Association; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Beta Chapter; Howard University Caribbean Student Assoc.; Pathfinder; Washington, D.C., Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

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Charleston

**U.S. Hands Off Panama!** Sat., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

**How Do We Fight the Growing Social Crisis and the Attack on Our Unions?** Speaker: Dick McBride, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sun., Nov. 5, 2 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

**The Pathfinder Mural.** Video presentation on mural in New York that features portraits of revolutionary leaders whose writings are published by Pathfinder Press. Sat., Nov. 18, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Mili-

tant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

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**Down With Apartheid. For a Free Namibia!** Speakers: Chengiah Ragaven, African National Congress of South Africa and SWAPO-Solidarity Canada; Claude Vallée, steelworker. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. Translation to English and Spanish. 6566 boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

**Building Socialism in Cuba.** A program on the ideas of Che Guevara. Speakers: Carlos Tablada, Cuban author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*; Claude Morin, teacher at University of Montréal; Michel Prairie, editor of French-language pamphlet *Socialism and Man in Cuba*, by Guevara and Fidel Castro; Chengiah Ragaven, African National Congress of South Africa; Mary-Alice Waters, Pathfinder. Sun., Nov. 5, 2 p.m. 1205 rue Visitation (metro Beaudry). Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

Toronto

**Capitalist Crisis Deepens.** Speaker: Robert Simms, Revolutionary Workers League. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

**The Goods and Services Tax: An Attack on Working People.** Speaker: Gary Kettner, Revolutionary Workers League, textile worker. Sat., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

SWEDEN

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**The Battle of Cuito Cuanavale.** Showing of video *Response to the South African Escalation*, Cuban documentary on Cuban and Angolan troops' defeat of South African invasion. Sat., Nov. 4, 1 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St. Eriksplan). Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (08) 722-9342.

**A Woman's Right to Choose Abortion.** Speaker: Barbro Davidson, coauthor of book *Abortion*. Sat., Nov. 11, 3 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St. Eriksplan). Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (08) 722-9342.

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**Our nonmaterialistic society** — Lumber and cement stocks rose after the Bay Area earthquake in anticipation of extensive rebuilding. And insurance stocks went up on



Harry Ring

the assumption that the quake and Hurricane Hugo would give insurers the opportunity to hike premiums.

**How clever** — The New Zealand government professed anger when French government saboteurs sank the Greenpeace vessel *Rainbow Warrior*. But at an International Monetary Fund meeting, finance minister David Caygill called it "a piece of good luck" that diverted public attention while unpopular economic measures were being pushed through.

**He liked the title** — Eastern Airlines union-buster Frank Lorenzo took in the off-Broadway play, *Other People's Money*. A comedy about Wall Street, the central character is "Larry the Liquidator."

**Freedom, Turkish style** — In Ankara a boy, 15, was prosecuted for drawing a hammer and sickle on his schoolbooks. The state demanded seven years, but a judge acquitted him. The youth served three months during the trial, plus another while undergoing psychiatric tests. When he heard the verdict, he fainted.

**They're sure?** — Flown in weekly, Cartier's Swiss chocolate truffles are available in New York. Two bite-size pieces, \$6.50. The chocolate makers say they have no connection with the Cartier jewelry company.

**Chutzpah** — After writing off losses for its foreign operations, the Bank of Boston paid no Massachusetts taxes despite a \$19.7 million profit. Meanwhile, charging unfair treatment, the bank is suing for a refund of \$120 million taxes paid in previous years.

**Capitalism — the humane system** — "It has been estimated that in South Asia, 75 million children work in wretched conditions to pay their parents' debts." — Chicago Tribune.

**Nice touch** — Drexel Burnham Lambert, the junk bond folk who

were fined \$650 million for swindling, hope to recoup part of that by marketing bonds for a company that plans to blanket Texas with a chain of privately operated jails.

**Thought for the week** — "Who of us, after the last three trading sessions, can disparage Nancy Reagan for paying an astrologer \$3,000 a month... who could argue that the first lady was a greater fool than the maniacs who were out witlessly buying stocks by the bushel basket on advice or conviction no more of less coherent than the dregs of a teacup." — Columnist Robert Reno.

## Guildford 4 released after 15 years in prison

Continued from Page 16

case to newspapers and political and other public figures. When he was beaten by prison guards he fought for — and won — compensation. His determination led to him spending more than 1,400 days in solitary confinement. He was moved between prisons 50 times. Before and after every visit from his family he was strip-searched.

The four are now expected to receive financial compensation for their ordeal. A judicial inquiry has been established to look into the fabrication of evidence by the police and into the Maguire case.

The decision has prompted calls for backing for other victims of injustice. The *Observer* editorial stated Home Secretary Hurd "cannot in all conscience continue to insist that what we now know about the Guildford case has no relevance to the Birmingham Six. Current inquiries into the activities of the West Midlands serious crimes squad must be extended to cover the period of the Birmingham pub bombings. Their case is every bit as deserving as the Guildford Four. They must not be forgotten."

This call has received backing from Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey. Conlon has said he intends to put his all into the Birmingham Six campaign effort. "I couldn't live with myself if I was to walk away," he said.

Labour MP Bernie Grant has written an open letter to the Home Secretary about the cause of the Broadwater Farm Three. The three are serving life sentences, convicted of the murder of a policeman. The cop died during 1986 protests against the police killing of a Black woman on the Broadwater Farm housing estate in north London. Grant points out that the three, like the Guildford Four, "were convicted on the basis of confessional evidence only, which subsequently was denied."

### Hot debate

The workings of the police and legal system are being hotly debated.

The *Correspondent* editorialized, "The impression at present is of a police force which is less than we deserve. This at a time when the demands on the police and the need for public confidence in them are at their greatest."

The editorial continued, "Insistence on corroborative evidence where the prosecution case hangs on confession should be extended from Scotland to the rest of the country" and concluded, "the issue of capital punishment can be finally laid to rest — no case for its reintroduction can possibly be sustained after Guildford."

The daily *Sun*, on the other hand, argued there were just "a few rotten apples in the barrel."

## Mass protests shake East German government

Continued from front page

seeks to create a political platform for the "restructuring of the German Democratic Republic." Groups are calling for the end of censorship and freedom of the press.

Faced with the mounting protests, the government began to indicate it would open up a dialogue with organizations in the country. Honecker was then removed from office.

Upon assuming office Krenz ordered the drafting of a new law easing restrictions on travel, met with Protestant religious leaders who have played a mediating role in previous government negotiations with opposition groups, and traveled to Leipzig to talk with protesters there.

Calling the emigration to West Germany "a great loss of blood," he indicated problems in industry, housing, and productivity had arisen as a result. He encouraged those who left the country to return, and said the government wanted an "earnest political dialogue."

"Naturally, we wanted somebody else for the job," said New Forum leader Michael Turek in response to Krenz's appointment. "He has never talked of reform, and has close connections with all the old hard-liners. We can only hope he'll be intelligent enough to introduce a new program."

The resignation of Honecker has not stopped the protests. Some 50,000 people demonstrated in Dresden on October 20, several thousand marched in East Berlin October 21, and two days later 150,000 marched in Leipzig. Another 5,000 protested in East Berlin October 24 on the occasion of Krenz's

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams spoke of the implications of this for other cases in Northern Ireland. "In one three-year period, 94 percent of all charged and 80 percent of all convictions in the special nonjury [Diplock] courts were based on so-called confessions obtained under interrogation."

Deputy leader of the Labour Party, Roy Hattersley, said that the freeing of the "Four showed that the British judicial system worked." The Labour Party at its conference

ratification as president by the parliament.

He told the session of parliament, "Our society needs less than ever confrontations of its citizens and more than ever sober dialogue about conflicting ideas and opinions."

The West German government has withheld its endorsement of Krenz. West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said the new leader would be measured by whether he "takes the path of long overdue reforms or sticks to a defense of their monopoly on power."

Former chancellor Willy Brandt added, "They are in a transitional phase. I am skeptical about a genuine answer to the demands for real reforms."

The West German government reiterated its pledge to provide economic aid to East Germany if it adopts capitalist market measures similar to those being implemented in the Soviet Union, Poland and Hungary.

A Krenz aide called the offer "patronizing."

"The existence of two German states," the aide said, "has been for four decades one of the realities on which security and stability in Europe depended."



Egon Krenz, new East German president.

## — 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25¢

Nov. 2, 1979

The next national contract fight for the United Mine Workers of America is more than a year off, but both sides are now readying battle plans.

In May, Consolidation Coal Co. — the biggest employer of miners and the nation's second-largest coal producer — pulled out of the industry's coordinated bargaining arm, the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. Consol wants to try to get a "better deal" by negotiating with the union on its own.

In the coalfields, the announcement was greeted with considerable interest, but little surprise: coal miners from Birmingham to western Pennsylvania are well aware that the coal operators are out to cripple and eventually destroy their union by any means necessary.

They know that the companies tried it during the 1977-78 110-day strike. And they know that next time around industry plans another onslaught.

That's why miners are already — 17 months in advance — putting aside savings to last out the next strike.

A lot is at stake — not just for miners but for the entire U.S. labor movement. Backed up against a wall by an ailing capitalist economy that can no longer allow both rising profits and concessions to working people,

U.S. employers are taking aim at the power of the unions.

In 1977 they chose the UMWA as the first major industrial union in 30 years to be the target of an outright union-busting assault. They failed, and in the process coal miners won greater stature in the eyes of U.S. labor.

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Nov. 2, 1964

Timid and half-hearted moves by the federal government against racist murderers and bombers in the Mississippi towns of Philadelphia and McComb have failed. What is more, they have boomeranged, with the local white racist officials using them to launch new attacks against the civil rights movement.

The racists were able to do this because the Johnson administration insisted on moving only through white racist-controlled courts and white supremacist local officials.

The federal grand jury in Jackson, Mississippi, which was charged by the U.S. Department of Justice with the task of taking action against the murderers of three civil rights workers in Philadelphia last June, refused to do so. Instead, the jury last week called for the indictment of several Negro witnesses on trumped-up charges of perjury.

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# Big opening in fight for rights

Working people and other defenders of democratic rights the world over have scored a resounding victory with the release of the Guildford Four. The international campaign has been successful. Their freedom has been won.

This victory gives impetus to the effort to win the release of the Birmingham Six, a pardon for the Maguire Seven, and the quashing of the remaining sentence imposed on Guildford Four member Paul Hill. It substantially strengthens the campaign for repealing the Prevention of Terrorism Act and Special Powers legislation.

In light of what is now being revealed, the opportunity exists for winning broad support for the demand that those responsible for the injustices against the Guildford Four and for the cover-ups should be prosecuted, up to the very highest levels.

The vast bulk of Irish prisoners are convicted as the result of forced confessions. They should all be freed.

The release of the four also increases the prospects for winning freedom for Irish activist Joseph Doherty, currently held in a New York jail and threatened with extradition to Britain on frame-up charges.

The jailing of the Guildford Four came in the context of a drive by the British rulers to terrorize the Irish community and deepen the divisions among workers in Britain. In the early 1970s a movement developed for ending internment without trial and getting British troops out of Ireland. Thousands of people took to the streets inspired by the struggle of the people in Ireland itself.

A series of show trials, the enactment of special legislation by the then Labour government, stepped-up police intimidation of Irish people, and a media witch-hunt were used by the British authorities to stop this developing movement and intimidate Irish people living in Britain and anyone who backed their rights.

The British government also launched a major offensive against people in Ireland itself. Stepped-up army operations, collusion between the Ulster Defence Regiment of the British Army and Loyalist death squads, and legal moves such as the removal of the right to silence of prisoners were among the measures used.

Emboldened by the success of the anti-Irish drive, a bipartisan consensus of the Conservative and Labour parties emerged in successive British governments. Each

sought to build on the erosion of democratic rights in Ireland to attack the rights of all working people in Britain.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act, for example, inverts the basic democratic right of innocence until proven guilty. It treats those arrested as guilty until proven innocent.

Many Blacks in Britain — notably the Broadwater Farm Three — have been framed up and imprisoned again on the basis of forced confessions, when their only crime has been to fight back against racism and oppression.

Thousands of trade unionists have also been arrested for simply asserting their right to picket as in the miners' and printers' strikes. In the 1984-85 miners' strike entire communities were subjected to police occupation — miners and their families assumed to be "guilty".

Moreover, political victimization of union and political activists in the factories is growing through the work of spy outfits that have close relations with government bodies. Censorship moves have escalated as in the banning of the book *Spycatcher*, which revealed some sordid details about the activities of the British secret police.

A broadcasting ban implemented a year ago prohibits the airing of some songs, speeches, and other material relating to the Irish struggle. A new official government secrets law is also being prepared.

Some within the ruling circles continue to favor such measures, but among many sections of the capitalist class there is growing fear that deepening attacks on democratic rights will provoke a widespread response among workers and their unions in Britain.

Moreover, curtailing rights can't be confined only to working people. Many capitalist politicians will find their rights restricted as some of their own powers are ceded to a more centralized government apparatus.

In addition, many think that the falling reputation of the courts and cops needs to be shored up. They hope by conceding on some of the most notable cases that the claim "British justice works" won't sound so hollow.

But nothing is further from the truth. The crisis that this case has provoked is unlikely to be bottled up in the short run and will likely deepen.

# Why U.S. rulers want 'perestroika' to succeed

BY DOUG JENNESS

"We want *perestroika* to succeed." That's what Secretary of State James Baker told the Foreign Policy Association on October 16. He announced that Washington is "prepared to provide technical assistance in certain areas of Soviet economic reform."

Within the framework of a debate that's been taking place within U.S. ruling circles on how to respond to the

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Soviet government's economic restructuring and its foreign policy initiatives, Baker's pronouncement puts the Bush administration behind the recent course in the Soviet Union. This stance appears to reflect the prevailing view within the capitalist class in the United States at this time.

Why do the U.S. ruling families want *perestroika* to pan out?

It's obvious that the Soviet bureaucracy's attempts to use capitalist market methods to spur an economy with a declining growth rate and stagnant labor productivity has given capitalist politicians and newspaper editors plenty of opportunities to score some propaganda points. This has been made easier as some leaders of Communist parties in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union increasingly shed even the pretense of being communists and cheer what they consider to be the virtues and achievements of capitalism.

But the capitalists don't need to wish *perestroika* well or offer to help make it work to realize these benefits. Clearly, there's something deeper involved.

A major consideration is that the capitalist ruling families see support to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's initiatives as the best course at this time to return to political stability in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. They hope to shore up the privileged bureaucratic castes so that they can withstand the growing economic and political crisis in these countries.

They recognize that the economic restructuring and political adjustments being made in the Soviet Union are not part of a genuine reform movement that increases social benefits and cedes powers to working people. The aim of *perestroika* and *glasnost* is the opposite — to try to counter the possibility of a massive working-class movement that fights for social gains and for political and economic power.

The bureaucratic castes in these countries are not revolutionary, either in their domestic or their foreign policies. Their course is not aimed at advancing the struggles of working people in their own countries or around the world.

To the contrary, as narrow-minded, self-seeking layers that live off the wealth produced by working people, they fear anything that threatens their privileged position and strive for political stability. For most of the past 40 years, they have been able to achieve that, both through economic growth rates that helped improve workers' standard of living and through repression.

Today, however, the bureaucratic rulers are in a weaker position and more vulnerable than before. They confront insurmountable economic difficulties. And lifting some political restrictions to get moral backing for such measures as reintroducing competition among workers, imposing belt-tightening policies, and reducing social benefits, has unleashed pent-up frustrations that have sparked nationalist revolts and working-class strikes.

The bureaucracies also aim to obtain more trade agreements, loans, and investments from capitalist countries, which they hope can help alleviate their problems.

The capitalist rulers are increasing trade and investments, and even offering direct assistance where shortages and other potentially explosive problems exist.

But there are sharp limits to what the capitalists can do to shore up stability in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. State ownership of mines, factories, rail lines, and so on puts definite restrictions on the ability of the capitalists to exchange capital or to use capital in any substantial way to exploit workers and turn a profit.

Trade is necessarily limited because there's not a very big market for most manufactured goods produced in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Their quality is generally inferior to those produced in capitalist countries.

Moreover, the specter of a major crisis of the capitalist system in the coming decade underlines the impossibility of the privileged bureaucracies achieving stability by getting help from capitalists.

Another reason Baker and other capitalist politicians are taking a positive response to *perestroika* is that it offers an opportunity to beef up U.S. imperialist influence in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union at a time when Germany's ruling families are increasingly asserting their role in the region.

If Washington hangs back from responding to Moscow's economic and military initiatives, it means giving the German capitalists free rein to shape policy there. That, the capitalists in the United States are not about to do, not at a time when their political and economic weight relative to German imperialism in Europe is declining.

# Rally for abortion rights Nov. 12

Continued from front page

antiabortion steamroller passing through the legislatures of one state after another.

Instead, the fight to defend abortion rights is gaining ground.

The mobilization of half a million abortion rights supporters in Washington, D.C., April 9 served notice to the U.S. rulers that their deepening assaults on women's right to choose would not continue without a fight.

Thousands of angry abortion rights supporters hit the streets in cities from Boston on the East Coast to Portland on the West Coast within hours after the Supreme Court decision was announced.

Since then, large mobilizations have demonstrated majority support for women's right to choose and warned state legislatures not to duplicate Missouri's law, which includes a ban on abortions being performed in public hospitals or any publicly funded facility.

On August 26 some 3,000 abortion rights supporters turned out in Houston. More than 5,000 demonstrated in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, September 17, in a action backed by the Florida AFL-CIO. A week later, 3,000 prochoice supporters rallied in Lansing, Michigan. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was the site of a rally of 7,000 September 26.

On October 14 some 20,000 demonstrated in 30 cities and towns across Canada to demand an end to attempts to recriminalize abortion, which was legalized in a January 1988 decision by Canada's Supreme Court.

The next day 30,000 people poured out in San Francisco, and 5,000 in Trenton, New Jersey, to say, "Abortion rights: We won't go back." Both marches had significant labor backing.

The increased mobilizations, visibility, and militancy of abortion rights supporters has led the big-business media to note the "new climate" now surrounding the debate on abortion.

- On October 5 the Florida Supreme Court struck down a law requiring parental consent for teenage women to obtain abortions.

- Five days later — as 10,000 abortion rights backers demonstrated at the state capitol in Tallahassee — the Florida legislature adjourned a short-lived special session after killing all 10 proposals aimed at restricting abortion access in that state.

- The next day, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to restore federal funding of abortions for poor women whose pregnancies are a result of rape or incest. This was the first time since the Hyde Amendment was passed in 1976 that Congress had voted to ease restric-

tions on the law, which now bans all federal funding for abortion, except to save the woman's life.

Some supporters of President George Bush are concerned about the black eye he's given himself and the Republican Party by his October 21 veto of this measure.

- The governor of Texas and state legislatures in Illinois and Minnesota have decided that antiabortion proposals will not be on the agenda of special legislative sessions in those three states.

Since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision recognizing women's constitutional right to choose abortion, politicians of both parties, backed up by the courts, have enacted legislation undermining that right. Hardest hit have been working-class women, especially the poorest, many of whom are Black and Latino. Young women too have been a special target of abortion foes.

These attacks have also marked a setback for the constitutional right to privacy that working people have forced the courts to recognize.

These escalating assaults, which culminated in the July Supreme Court decision, went largely unanswered until an outpouring of half a million abortion rights supporters April 9.

Since then, prochoice mobilizations have begun to stem the tide of restrictive legislation and vigilante attacks.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives' October 24 vote to enact harsh new antiabortion regulations, however, signals that the attacks on abortion rights will continue and underscores the importance of the largest possible turnout November 12.

Union members and other working people will also be there in large numbers, and rightly so. Without the right to control their own bodies, women cannot begin to participate as equals alongside men in the growing union battles that are on the agenda — and the bigger fights that lie ahead as the capitalist crisis deepens and attacks on working people mount.

The current rise in labor struggles, from the strikes at Eastern Airlines and Boeing to the fightback in the coalfields, has brought with it growing solidarity, confidence, and social consciousness.

These new forces put the fight to defend women's right to abortion in a stronger position than in many years. It opens the door to broader labor involvement in the abortion rights battle. At the same time, the new momentum in the abortion rights struggle will give encouragement to union fighters, especially those currently on strike. All out November 12!



# Hormel forces health-care cuts at Atlanta plant

BY JEFF ROGERS

ATLANTA — Workers at Geo. A. Hormel's meat-packing plant here have a new three-year contract, one that contains a long list of takebacks in health-care benefits.

The contract was approved at an October 1 union meeting. Two weeks earlier, the workers, who are members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 442, had voted by an overwhelming majority — 86 to 3 — to reject the proposal.

Health-care takebacks in the new contract include higher drug costs and increases in worker copayments and deduct-

About a year ago, at the urging of union members, Local 442 officials agreed to hold monthly union meetings. Up to that time, meetings were held about four times a year and were sparsely attended. Some union activists felt regular meetings would put the local in a stronger position going into contract negotiations, and would raise interest in the union among workers who aren't yet members — some 25 to 30 percent of the work force.

When the Eastern Airlines workers went on strike in March, workers from Hormel organized a trip to the airport picket lines. We were encouraged by the UFCW's contribution of thousands of dollars to the Eastern strike fund nationally.

At our union picnic later in the summer, more than 100 Hormel workers and family members heard Atlanta Eastern strike leader Mike Drake from Machinists union Local 1690 and flight attendant Patty O'Donnell tell the story of their fight to defend the unions at Eastern. A successful plant-gate collection for the Eastern strikers was organized a few weeks later.

That collection occurred a week after the first rejection vote. On the following Monday, the company called mandatory meetings of the entire work force. David Larson, the head of the Human Relations Department, was sent down from Hormel's headquarters in Austin, Minnesota, to address the meetings.

There would be no better offer from Hormel, he told us. Other meat-packers who work for Hormel's competitors had lower pay and benefit levels, and we had to accept the takebacks in order for the company to compete. Our plant produces Vienna sausages, bacon, and hams.

Although only a few workers spoke at this meeting, several argued against agreeing to the company's demands.

The meetings had an effect, however, and most workers

were convinced that we could not expect a better deal without a fight.

In the two weeks before the second ratification meeting, union members discussed whether a fight could be mounted. Many felt that too many workers would cross picket lines if there was a strike. Most others felt trapped between two bad choices: accept a lousy contract or try to fight a powerful company with a weak union.

The second meeting was smaller, discussion was discouraged, and the balloting was over with and counted in 15 minutes. The vote was 53 to 8 to accept the contract.

After the meeting, the vote reversal was discussed in the plant.

Some workers who wanted to vote no said they didn't come to the meeting because they knew the contract would be pushed through. One worker was so discouraged that she threatened to quit the union. "What union?" she said. "You might as well save your dues and put it away for your higher doctor bills."

Others pointed to the ways the union has become more active during the past year, and are more confident that we can keep pushing in this direction to strengthen the union. "Well, we've got three years to put this union together," said one local member.

Some workers think rebuilding the Hormel "chain" would put the union in a stronger position. Until the early 1980s, the unions at all Hormel's plants bargained together in a chain instead of plant by plant. This was broken up under the impact of the meat-packing bosses' offensive. Other workers have raised the need for all meat-packers to bargain together with their various employers, "just like the coal miners," one worker said.

Jeff Rogers is a member of UFCW Local 442 at Hormel.

## UNION TALK

ibles for medical bills. A two-tier setup affecting health-care benefits for retirees was introduced for workers hired after Jan. 1, 1990. If these workers ever make it to retirement, they will have to pay for 100 percent of the cost of their health-care coverage.

The contract also contains other union-weakening provisions. A ban on sympathy strikes and picketing was added to the no-strike clause already in the contract.

A wage increase of 15 cents an hour for each of the next three years was also included in the deal. Workers now average \$10 an hour after 18 months in the plant.

The initial vote to reject the contract showed the dissatisfaction most workers felt with the proposal, especially with the health-care cuts. By voting no, they hoped to pressure the company to come up with a better proposal in further negotiations during the extension period that ended September 30.

The large size and defiant mood of the first contract meeting also registered the interest in the union that has been growing over the past year.

## LETTERS

### March for housing

Hundreds marched through downtown Honolulu October 7 to demand affordable housing and call attention to the growing problem of homelessness in Hawaii. There are between 10,000 and 20,000 homeless people in the state.

Many homeless people participated in the march of more than 350.

Ah Quon McElrath of the Committee on Welfare Concerns called for using military land to build affordable housing and for the return of Hawaiian homestead lands to the aboriginal Hawaiians. Leonard Hoshijo, international representative of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 142, also spoke.

The Hawaii Housing Now Coalition, which called the action, said that 45,000 families live in overcrowded units, with 6,500 in substandard housing. More than 20,000 families pay more than 60 percent of their income in rent. Nearly all of these families earn less than \$15,000 a year.

Marc Viglielmo  
Honolulu, Hawaii

### Drugs and arms

I am 72 years old and have been reading the *Militant* for many years and before that the *Daily Worker* during my college years.

I have read many, many times of the drug and arms interchange that has been going on for years between the United States and the contras, etc.

What is the exact progression of events? I know that drugs flow into this country and arms go to the contras, but exactly how is this done?

Who takes the first step? Who pays for what?

I cannot clarify this and it hinders me in discussions with neighbors when I can't explain the exact mechanisms of the procedures.

Sam Lesser  
Danbury, Connecticut

### '10 and 25 Years Ago'

One of my favorite features in the *Militant* is the column "10 and 25 Years Ago." It's very instructive to recall major events of those times and to see how the *Militant* reported on them.

The year 1989 has been a special treat for me in this respect because of Malcolm X's powerful organizing efforts in 1964 and the revolutions in Iran and Nicaragua in 1979. Still, I am sure the benefits are not limited to those of us who have been politically conscious for 10 and 25 years.

The key lesson of this column is that we must take a long-term view of the fight against capitalism. We will win, but it won't be today. And today's downturns are just an interval in the worldwide struggle. You might even consider including an occasional excerpt from 100 years ago. The *Militant* was not yet around then, but the workers' press was active.

Chris Starr  
Athens, Georgia

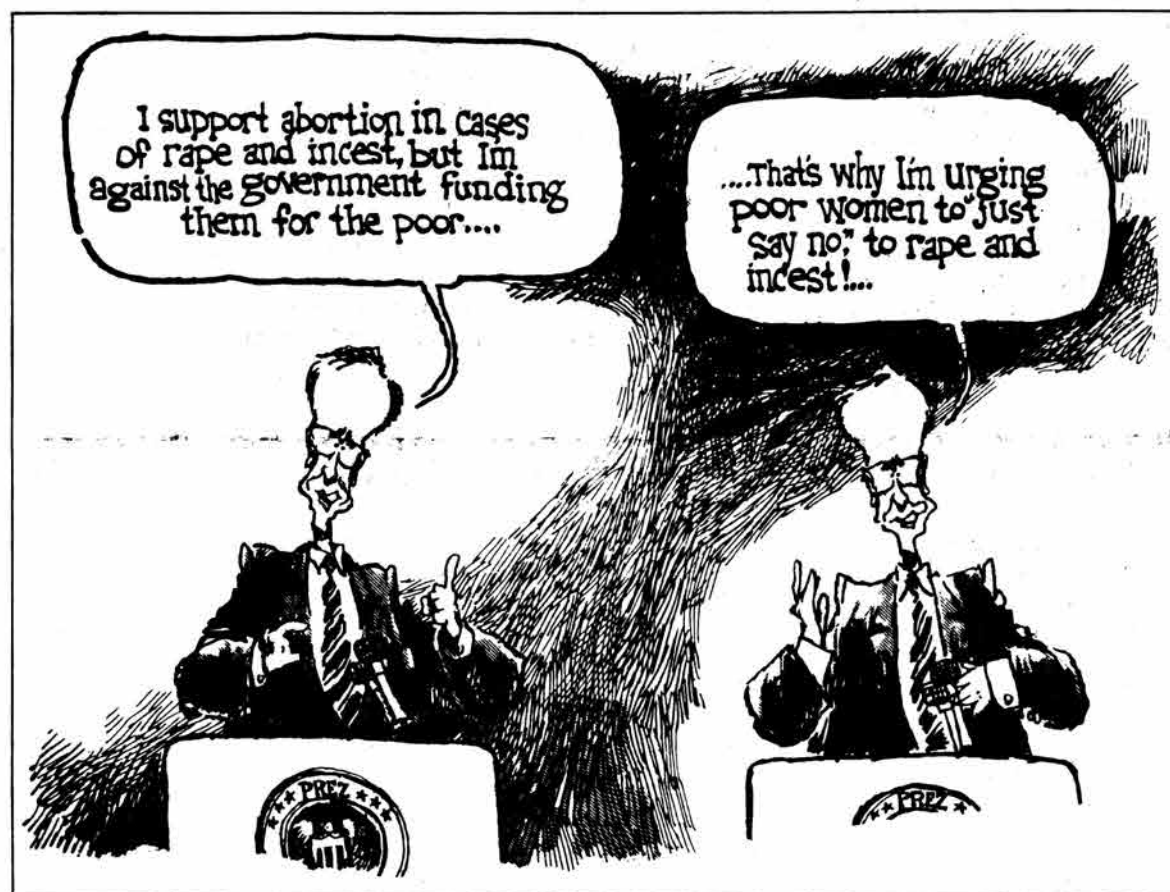
### Ochoa execution

It's not surprising that there are disagreements about the Cuban military court's decision to execute Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa and three other Cuban ex-officers. I had doubts. However, having studied the information, I think we should remember that the Cuban revolution is under constant attack from imperialism.

Every day since 1959 the Cuban people have struggled for their right to exist as an independent, free nation. Everything they have has been put into doing whatever is necessary to maintain the right to exist. Cuba is fighting.

When the guerrillas were fighting in the Sierra Maestra it was necessary to maintain discipline. Fidel Castro spoke of this at the trial. Ochoa was a soldier at war — a war that was as much a part of defending the Cuban revolution as it was part of defending Angola.

Ochoa was fighting in the army that tried and executed three Cuban



Mike Luckovich

soldiers for the rape and murder of Angolan women. Castro took up the question of having different rules for leaders and the ranks. The revolution saw fit to execute soldiers who raped and murdered women of the land they were fighting for, and it saw fit to execute those whose actions threatened the revolution itself.

Kate Gore  
Auckland, New Zealand

### Death penalty and Cuba

Recent letters from readers supporting the execution of Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa neglect the unnecessary brutality and finality of the death penalty in a socialist society.

In Cuba, the new man is now being created. Cubans live in a society where the future has a purpose, where children and the elderly are well cared for, and where the value of internationalism is well understood. These are humane values.

On the other hand, the slow deliberate, and considered decision to place a bullet through a man's brain and let the life die out is not humane. It is inhumane, and opposing it is not fetishistic — especially when the alternative of rehabilitative imprisonment is available. This is not the same ethical situation as fighting on the battlefield. At Cuito Cua-

navale, for example, the threat to the lives of revolutionaries was immediate: kill or be killed. Killing and war of revolution then become justifiable.

No such necessity for violent retribution existed in the peaceful courtroom where Ochoa was sentenced to death. In a nutshell: yes, the man was a degenerate who did great damage. And no, putting him to death neither solves the drug problem, nor shows the world how progressive Cuba is, nor thwarts a U.S. invasion.

No doubt, imperialism still threatens Cuba. But this fact cannot serve as a cover for all conceivable defects. To think that way reminds me of old Stalinists, who endorsed executions, Berlin walls, etc. with a wave of the hand, saying "All will change when imperialism no longer threatens." Nicaragua, a poorer nation by far than Cuba, has already abolished capital punishment. So it can be done, even in the shadow of the capitalist colossus.

Albert Fried-Cassorla  
Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

### Toxic waste protest

I took part along with hundreds of others in a rally in Phoenix re-

cently against toxic waste dumping.

Groups around the state shared information about their local environmental fights and demanded a five-year moratorium on the siting of new hazardous waste facilities in the state. Arizona accepts tons of toxic waste from California and other states each year.

It was announced at the rally that more than 5,000 signatures against opening a \$42 million waste disposal facility in Mobile, Arizona, have been collected to present to legislators.

In Kingman — the site of one of the many fights throughout the state — 7,500 of the town's population of 10,000 have signed a petition to stop Union Carbide from building two plants. Signs throughout the crowd read, "No Bhopal here."

Elizabeth Lariscy  
Phoenix, Arizona

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

## Correction

In an October 27 *Militant* article on the Pathfinder mural it was incorrectly stated that Elisabeth Linder spoke at the recent fund-raising meeting in Pittsburgh. The meeting where she spoke took place in Portland, Oregon.

Two mural supporters at the Portland event flew to New York to join the project.

Also, Eva Hamlin Miller came to work on the project from Greensboro, North Carolina, not Atlanta.



## Guildford 4 win freedom in Britain

BY PETE CLIFFORD

LONDON — An Irish tricolor proudly flew from the crowd of several hundred outside the Old Bailey court here October 19. Inside, the court of appeal was in session following a government decision to overturn the conviction of the Guildford Four: Patrick Armstrong, Gerard Conlon, Paul Hill, and Carole Richardson, sentenced to life imprisonment in 1975. Building workers from local sites, many of whom are Irish immigrants, swelled the crowd.

As he emerged from the courthouse, Conlon told the welcome party, "I've been in prison for 15 years for something I did not do. I watched my father die in a British prison when he was innocent. The Maguires are innocent. And let's hope the Birmingham Six are freed."

The sudden decision has dominated politics in Britain and Ireland since. "A scandal that shakes the foundations of justice" ran the *Sunday Observer* editorial, and "Flawed justice in the dock" was the *Sunday Times* version.

A former Master of the Rolls, Lord Denning, said, "The criminal justice system is in ruins as a result of the Guildford Four decision." Calls for substantial changes in the legal system and freedom for other victims of injustice, notably the Birmingham Six, have been widespread.

The Guildford Four were jailed for bombings the Irish Republican Army (IRA) has since claimed it carried out. They were directed against pubs in Guildford in the south-east of England in 1974. Hill and Armstrong were further sentenced for a bombing in Woolwich, a part of London. Hill was also convicted for the murder of a former soldier in Belfast. He has been released on bail from a Belfast prison for this conviction pending appeal.

### 'You would have been executed'

In sentencing the four at the time, the then judge, now Master of the Rolls (senior criminal appeal court judge), Lord Donaldson said, "Had capital punishment been in force, you would have been executed." Each were given life sentences. Hill was told by the judge that this was to be for his entire "natural" life. A London paper, the *Evening Standard*, led that day with the banner headline "In jail till the day you rot."

The evidence against them rested on confessions obtained in police custody. Conlon recounted at his trial how police interrogator Blake "came into the room screaming and shouting. He made me strip and started abus-

ing my body. He started on my kidneys where it would not show marks. Then he started squeezing my private parts." Conlon was told that his mother would be accidentally shot by British soldiers if he didn't confess.

Hill was threatened that his girlfriend, who was pregnant at the time, would be arrested. He was the first person held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). The act, established as a temporary law by the then Labour government, extended police powers to detain without charge for seven days. During the first two days access to a lawyer is denied.

The law, which has now been made permanent, was enacted as the government and media whipped up a wave of anti-Irish hysteria following a number of bombings in Birmingham and Guildford. "If you're Irish and arrested for a political or terrorist offense," Conlon said, "you don't stand a chance."

### 6,430 detained; 45,000 stopped

From its enactment until January 1988, 6,430 people, Irish in their overwhelming majority, have been detained under the PTA. Of these, 5,586 — 87 percent — were not charged. Just 3 percent were charged with a PTA-related offense. And each year up until 1988 an average 45,000 people are stopped under the PTA at ports of entry.

Since January 1988 there has been a marked rise in detentions: a record 1,717 people were detained in the year ending December 1988 and a further 843 in the first six months of this year.

Those released, whether convicted of anything or not, have their records retained on file and, according to the National Council of Civil Liberties, are continued to be treated as "suspected terrorists."

Seven people — known as the Maguire Seven — were also convicted at the time of the Guildford frame-up. The defendants were convicted solely on the basis of evidence obtained in police custody from two of the Guildford Four who later withdrew their forced testimony. Forensic evidence presented in court in the form of a written report (the tests carried out by an inexperienced laboratory assistant were destroyed) has since been discredited.

Of those jailed, Guiseppe Conlon, Gerard's father, died in prison after serving six years. Annie Maguire, Conlon's aunt, served 11 years.

Home Secretary Douglas Hurd explained to the House of Commons that the Guildford Four were to be released because a police



Paul Hill, one of the Guildford Four, with his daughter, following his release in Belfast.

inquiry had uncovered evidence that the confessions had been fabricated. He revealed that police notes had been found on an interview with Hill that the cops had denied had taken place.

In releasing the four, the appeals judge in the case, Lord Lane, charged five police officers with being "liars." A judicial inquiry has been established to investigate what happened, and those still in the police force have been suspended.

Labour Member of Parliament Chris Mullins charged in the House of Commons that it was not credible to pretend that it had been the fault of a handful of police officers. This point has been broadly endorsed. A Sunday newspaper, the *Correspondent*, revealed that the Scotland Yard bomb squad had sent two reports to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in 1975 expressing doubts as to whether the Guildford Four were guilty. The reports were suppressed by the DPP.

The *Sunday Times* editors stated, "Of

course, those over-zealous policemen who broke the law should be in the dock, but the judiciary should be alongside them." The *Times* editorial commented, "Senior officers must be partly to blame," and the *Daily Mirror* wrote, "The first priority must be to remove the stench of corruption which is gravely damaging the law." It called for the inquiry to "investigate the role of everyone, however eminent."

Campaigners in support of the Guildford Four have from the outset pointed to the lack of evidence to prove their guilt.

Detailed confessions of an IRA team that they had been responsible for the Guildford bombings were ignored by the appeals court in 1977.

Recently it has emerged that prosecution lawyers and police interrogators knew of a witness who could confirm Gerard Conlon's alibi. The information was not made available to the defense. Three witnesses presented by Hill were simply not believed in court.

The authorities' stance was summed up by Lord Denning in 1988 when he said of the Birmingham Six appeal that it is "better that innocents stay in jail than the integrity of the English judicial system be threatened."

### Birmingham Six

The Birmingham Six were also convicted in 1975 for bombings. Confessions were beaten out of them. Forensic evidence used by the prosecution has since been discredited. Tests that were supposed to reveal evidence of handling of plastic explosives would equally show the handling of plastic playing cards or matches. The forensic scientist who carried out the tests was subsequently fired for "limited efficiency."

At the Birmingham Six appeal in January 1988 a senior policeman admitted that there was a difference in interview schedule times and details from the reported evidence at the trial and the written records — the very reason given by the Home Secretary for freeing the Guildford Four.

Recently the West Midlands serious crimes squad, responsible for the Birmingham Six case, has been disbanded and subject to investigation for falsifying evidence against suspects.

The campaign to free the Guildford Four was led by the prisoners and their families. They lobbied and campaigned as broadly as they were able.

Hill regularly wrote from prison about the

Continued on Page 13

## Irish artist's deportation protested

BY GREG McCARTAN

NEW YORK — "The people who rule this country don't want us to hear" about the Irish freedom struggle. "In the case of Gerard Kelly they don't want his art in this country. That censorship is what this meeting is about."

With these words Sandy Boyer of the Irish Arts Center opened a meeting here October 22 to protest the arrest and deportation of Irish mural artist Kelly.

A resident of Belfast, in the north of Ireland, Kelly was arrested by the FBI September 27 at Kennedy Airport as he was entering the United States with his fiancée. He was charged with a felony for not listing on an immigration form his 1981 conviction and imprisonment in Northern Ireland. The felony count carried a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

He was deported October 12 after pleading guilty to lesser charges.

Kelly had come to the United States at the invitation of the Pathfinder Mural Project to paint the portraits of Irish freedom fighters on the mural.

The 50 people at the meeting heard a message from Kelly that said, "The fight for

freedom is international and that is the main reason I wanted to paint on the Pathfinder mural."

Kelly said he hoped his painting would have "educated about the situation in Northern Ireland and internationally. The whole crux of the matter was to stop someone from traveling to the United States who dissents from the British war in Ireland."

Sam Manuel, director of the mural project, noted the slogan on the mural that reads, "For a world without borders."

"That strikes at the heart of why we are here tonight and why the FBI arrested Gerard," Manuel said. "The more we are aware about the struggles of workers and farmers around the world the more we can unite in a common fight."

Although the government carried out a blow, "they will not be successful at preventing the portraits from being painted into the mural," Manuel said. Plans have been made for Kelly to send sketches to New York from which other artists can paint on the wall.

Cait Mullen, co-chair of the National Committee for Joseph Doherty, explained that in both Kelly's and Doherty's cases "the U.S. government used deportation laws for political purposes."

Doherty fled to the United States to avoid prosecution by the British for his political activities in Northern Ireland. He has been imprisoned for nearly seven years in New York. Mullen urged the audience to build on the protest mounted around Kelly to gain support for freeing Doherty.

"The mural says something to Irish Americans," Irish American Unity Conference leader Gerry Coleman noted. "It says this is a broader struggle, we are part of a world, and even part of the Third World."

The freeing of four Irish movement activists in Britain, known as the Guildford Four, was noted by a number of speakers as a victory in the struggle against frame-ups, victimizations, and harassment of the Irish freedom struggle.

The collusion between the U.S. and British governments in Kelly's arrest was hit by Irish civil rights attorney Frank Durkan in a message to the meeting.

Artist Arlene Wege told about her recent experience in Northern Ireland. She urged people to get "involved in projects like protesting the arrest of Kelly and Joe Doherty."

A fund appeal to cover the costs of the defense effort raised more than \$300.